Love on the Other Side

A Nagabe Short Story Collection

story & art by
NAGABE

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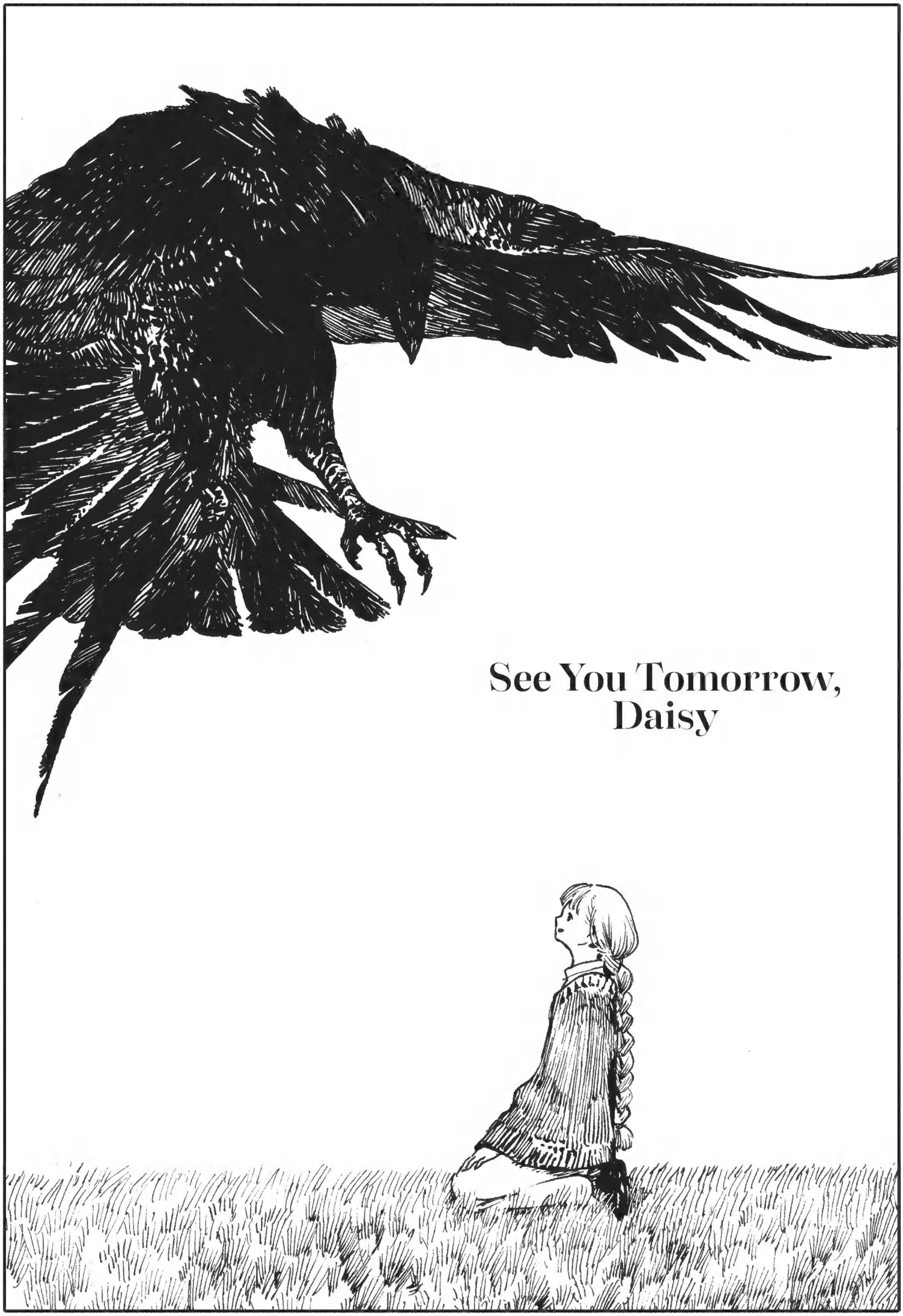
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FWAP



See You Tomorrow,
Daisy

WELCOME BACK, DAISY.

FWA-FWAP

YES, YES.

TAP TAP

KRRR.

THANK YOU.

IT'S SO GORGEOUS! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF STONE IT IS.

AH --!

KOO!

KOO!

YOU GIVE ME SO MUCH, AND I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING, TOO.

THEY'RE SAND-WICHES.

I'D NEVER TRIED MAKING THEM BEFORE.

TODAY I BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR YOU, ACTUALLY.

OH, YOU SWEET SNUGGLE-BUG.

KAW!

KOO.

KRRR...

KOO!

WILL YOU TRY ONE?

KAW!

NOM

KHOO?

OH!

HA HA HA!

NO NEED TO RUSH. THERE ARE PLENTY, AND THEY AREN'T RUNNING AWAY.

I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE THEM.


IT'S SUCH A LOVELY DAY.
FWAP FWAP
MUST YOU REALLY GO ALREADY?

HERE.

DAISY, WAIT.

I THOUGHT I'D MAKE ONE FOR YOU.

IT'S A LUCKY CHARM.

KOOZ

BUT I DON'T REALLY NEED ANY-THING.

I SUPPOSE THIS MAY SOUND RUDE OR UNGRATE-FUL...

YOU KNOW, ACTU-ALLY...

HAPPIER THAN ANY-THING.

ARE WONDERFUL, BUT ALL I TRULY WANT IS TO SEE *YOU.* SEEING YOU MAKES ME...

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ...

THE SPARKLY STONES AND...

STAY SAFE FOR ME.

DON'T DO ANY-THING RASH.

PLEASE ...

WAH?!

TUG

H-HEY...!

ACK!

ROLL

ROLL

OH!

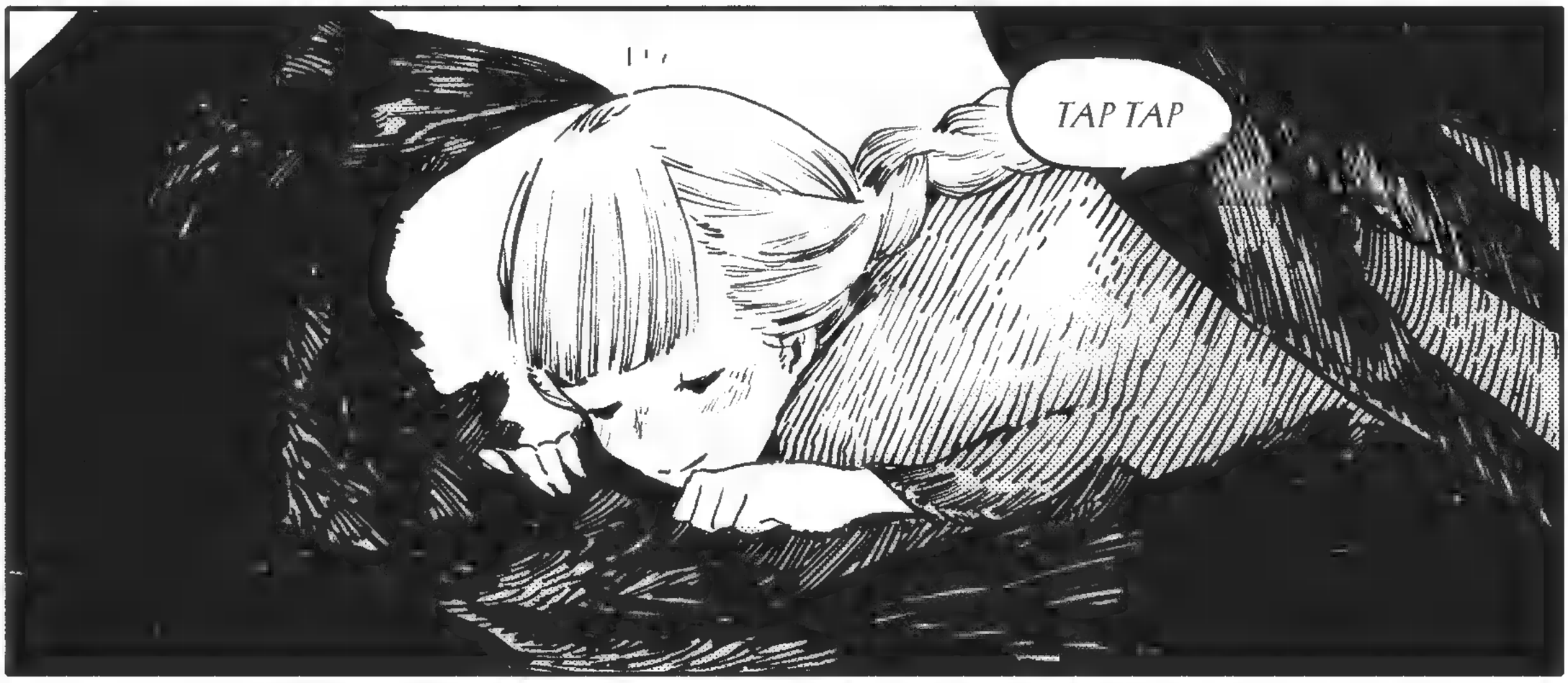
ROLL ROLL

EEP!

ROLL

FLOP

KO-KOO KOO!
KO-KOO!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE!
ER...
HAA...


TAP TAP


I'LL SEE YOU...


TO-MORROW, DAISY.

OUT IN THE DAISY FIELDS, WERE YOU?

JUST CHECKING IN ON YOU.

I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU TODAY, DOCTOR.

WELCOME BACK, GERDA.

NOTHING IN PARTICULAR. JUST A WHIM.

WHAT SPARKED THE SUDDEN INTEREST IN ORES AND GEMS?

BUT NEVER MIND THAT.

HERE.

YES, I WAS.

YOU DO LOVE THAT SPOT, DON'T YOU?

YOU KNOW, GERDA, YOU'VE CHANGED.

MOST OF ALL, YOU'VE GROWN MUCH SUNNIER AND CHEERIER.

BUT YOU'VE RECOVERED ENOUGH TO STAND ON YOUR OWN.

YOUR ILLNESS IS SO RARE. IT COULD HAVE LEFT YOU TOO DRAINED TO WALK.

I MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY.

HAVE YOU, SAY...

HAS THERE BEEN SOMETHING GOOD IN YOUR LIFE LATELY?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

FOUND A SWEET-HEART?

WHAT ?!

ALL THOSE GIFTS SUGGEST THAT WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE COURTING YOU QUITE INTENTLY.

I IMAGINE THEY'RE AN INTRIGUING INDIVIDUAL.

OH, JUST A HUNCH.

WH-WH-WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?!

SORRY, SORRY.

DOCTOR ...!

HA HA HA!

ER...I-I'M NOT SURE I'D CALL THEM MY **SWEETHEART**, EXACTLY...? WE'RE JUST, AH...WE'RE--

A SWEET-HEART...

WHAT THEIR NAME IS?

MIGHT I ASK...

DAISY.

INNOCENT.

EARNEST.

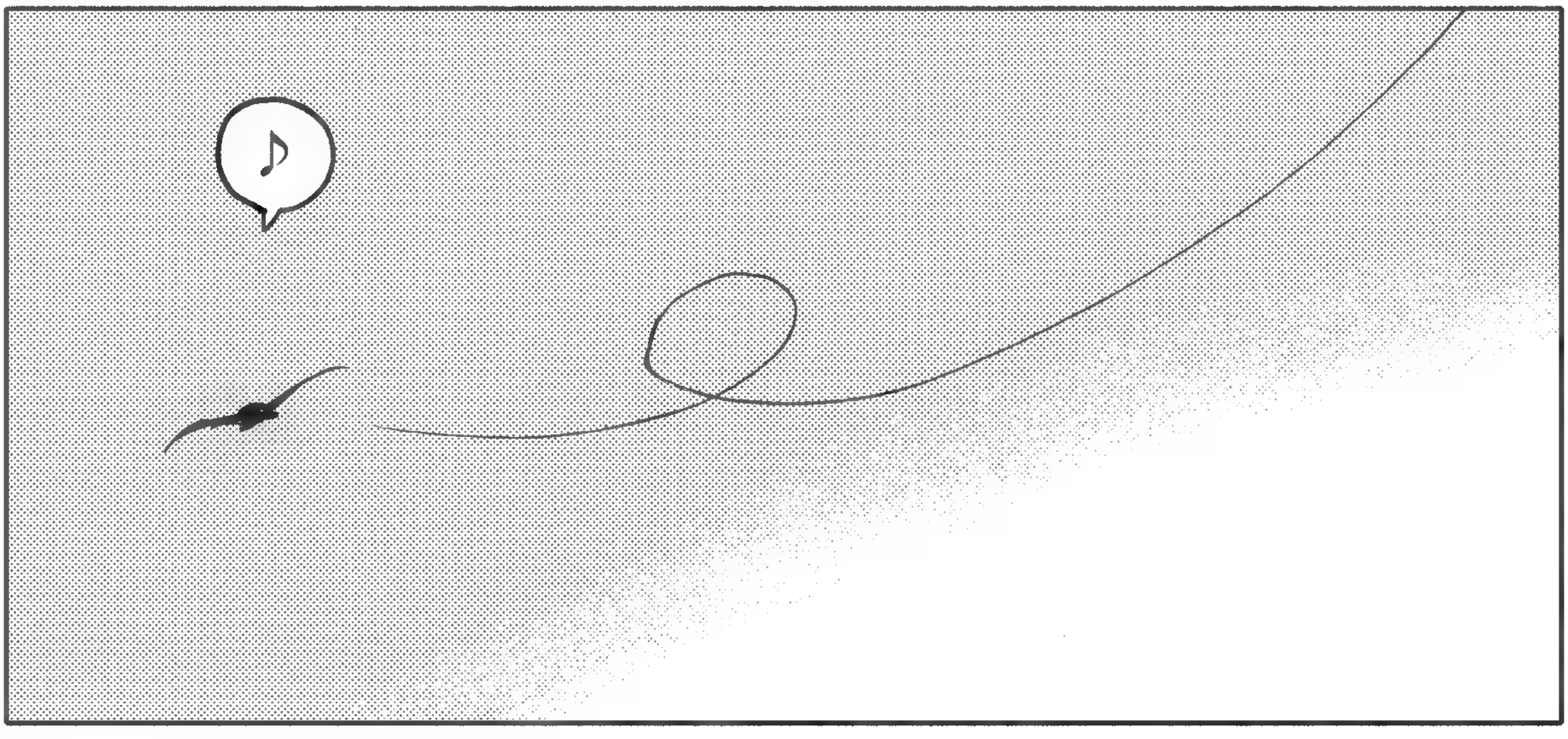
MY DEAR DAISY.

THEIR NAME IS DAISY.











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BAU!

UGH...

OKAY, OKAY!

URF!

OOF!

MMPH... FIVE MORE MINUTES.

YAWN~!

The Wolf-Man and the Girl-Wolf



KLINK

TUNK

?

KANG

HEY, NOW.

?

IT'S TOO WOLFISH-- UNCOUTH.

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU NOT TO EAT IT RAW LIKE THAT?

I'LL HAVE BREAKFAST READY IN A MOMENT.

GO ON. SIT IN YOUR CHAIR AND WAIT POLITELY.

BUBL BUBL

SIZZ

TNK TNK

BAU WAUWA!

SAY "THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD."

NOW ...

GOBL GOBL SLURP SLORP

KLINK TINK TINK MUNCH

KLINK

GALINA.

GOBL SLORP GOBL

LIKE SO.

USE YOUR FORK AND SPOON.

REMEM-BER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU?

MRR!

DON'T DEVOUR YOUR FOOD LIKE THAT.

SIGH...

GOBL GOBL GOBL

YES, LIKE THAT.

?

URK!

OF COURSE IT CAN'T BE SO SIMPLE.

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

HEY, NOW! DON'T DO THAT!

YOU NEEDN'T OFFER IT THAT WAY.

HEE HEE HEE!

?

MUTTR... MUTTR...

AND SO MUCH ELSE TO CLEAN UP...

WHAT A MESS. NOW THERE'S A GIANT STAIN ON MY SHIRT.

HOIST

SHEESH.

I DIDN'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE SO DIFFICULT.

SHE DOESN'T LEARN VERY QUICKLY AT ALL.

IT SEEMS I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE PROBLEM.

I KNEW SHE WAS REARED BY WOLVES IN THE FOREST, BUT I THOUGHT HER **HUMAN** NATURE MIGHT... AH, WELL.

BOUNCE

BOUNCE

STREETCH

HM?

TUP

WAU!

ROOOLL

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE HUMAN.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. ALTHOUGH, I'D PREFER IF YOU ASKED IN A MORE APPROPRIATE FASHION.

YOU WANT TO PLAY, DO YOU?

RUR!

JUST AS I AM.

HEY, NOW!

WEARING SHOES...

YET...

GALINA!

WEARING NICE CLOTHES...

NOT THERE!

USING THE TOILET...

HEY!

PROPER MANNERS ...

LISTEN CLOSELY: "HEH-LOW."

NOT, NOT QUITE.

"HELLO."

HARRO.

TRY AGAIN.

HARRO!

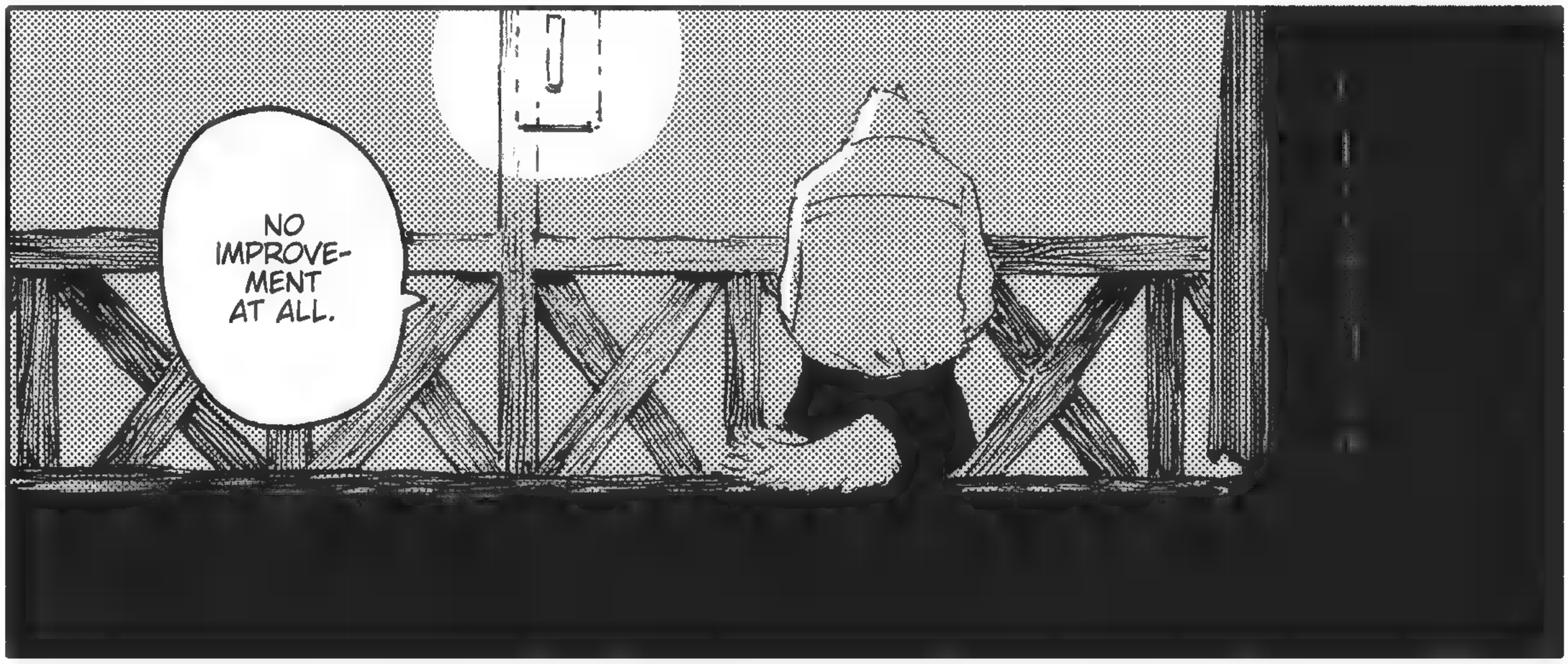
NO, LIKE I SAID...

SIGH.

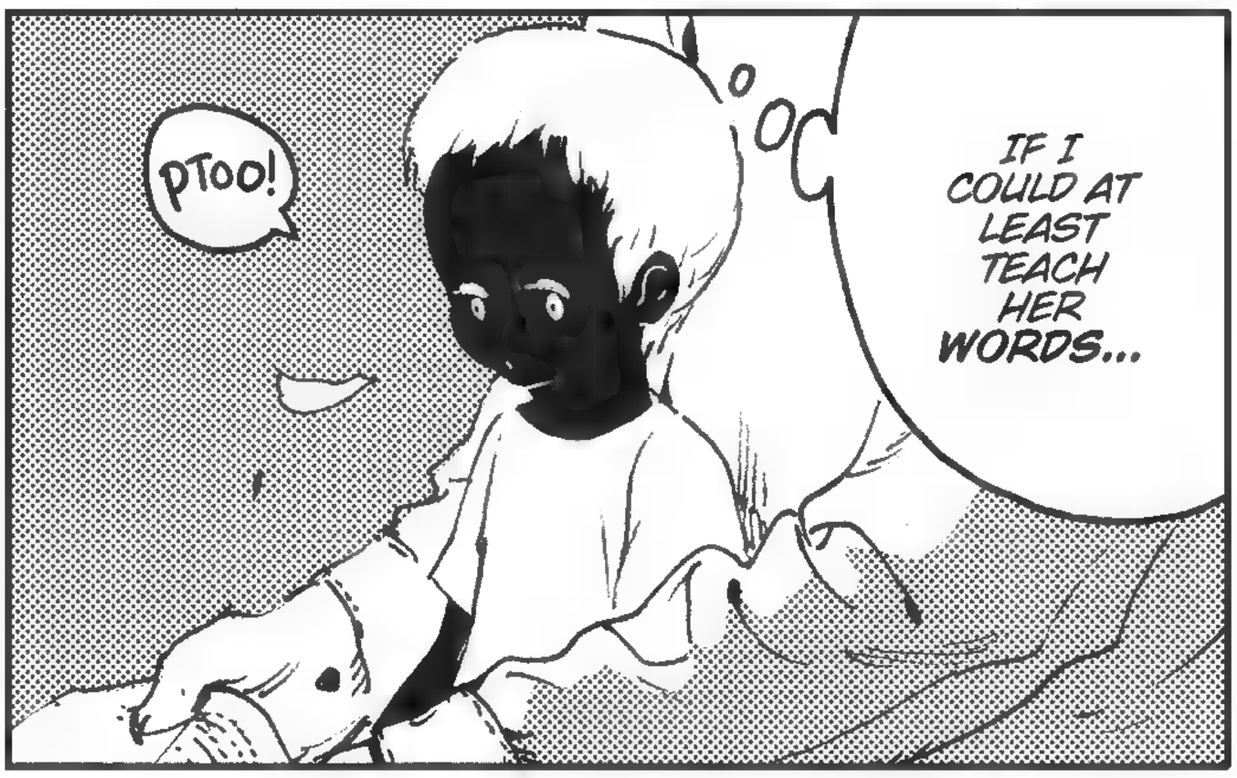
DON'T CHEW BOOKS, PLEASE!

HEY, NOW!

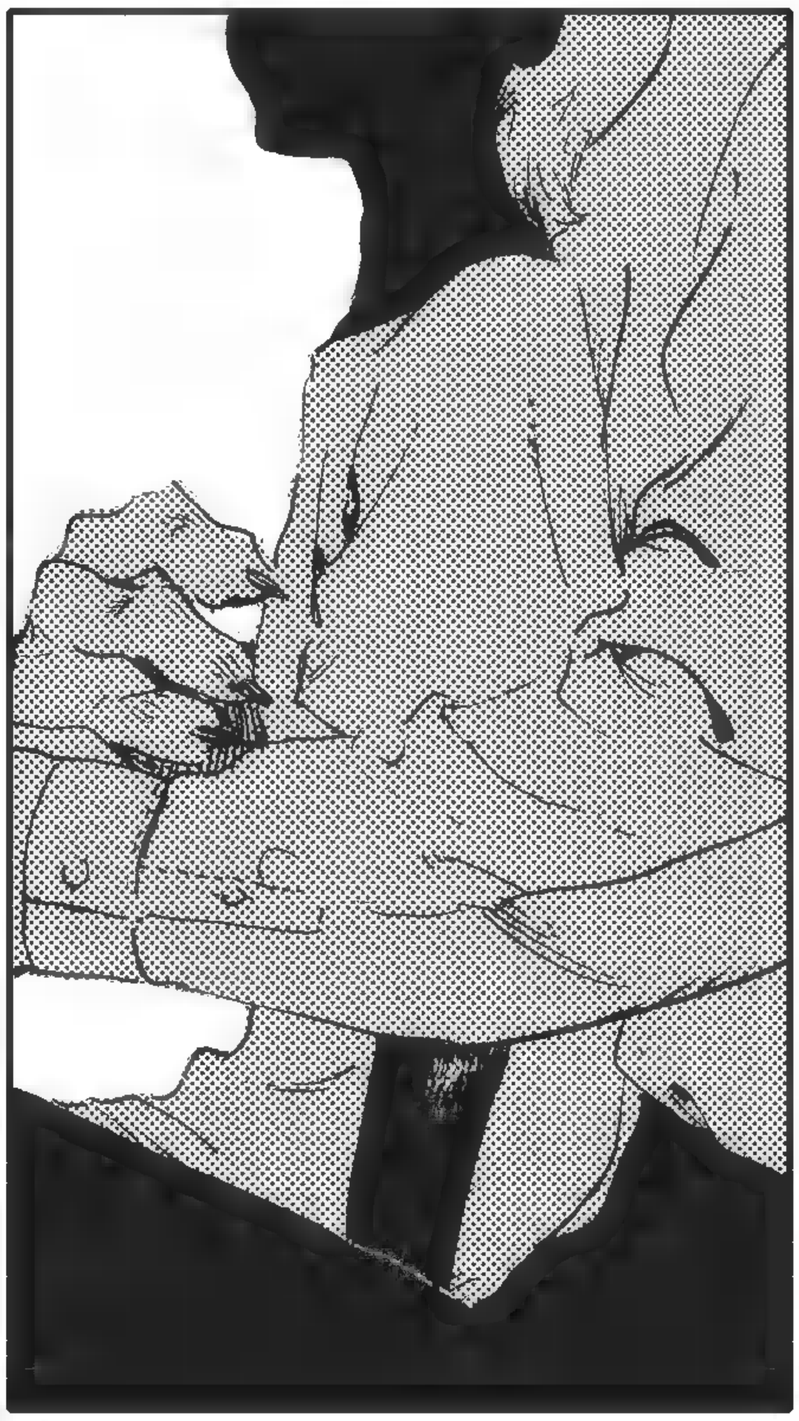
NOM NOM


NO IMPROVE-MENT AT ALL.


IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER TO EXPRESS WHAT I FEEL.


PTOO!
IF I COULD AT LEAST TEACH HER WORDS...


GAUNA.
I LOVE YOU.



LOVE.

THE WORD MEANS NOTHING TO HER.

WHEE HEE!

LOVE!

LOVE!

AWROOO!

NOW, NOW.

DON'T HOWL AT THE MOON.

ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT.

IT'S TIME YOU WENT TO BED.

Grand-father.

Grand-mother.

The Lord wanted to protect you from the cold, so He gave you extra hair.

There's nothing remotely strange about you.

It's true that you look differ-ent.

Why do I have this bushy tail?

Why am I **different** from everyone?

Am I strange?

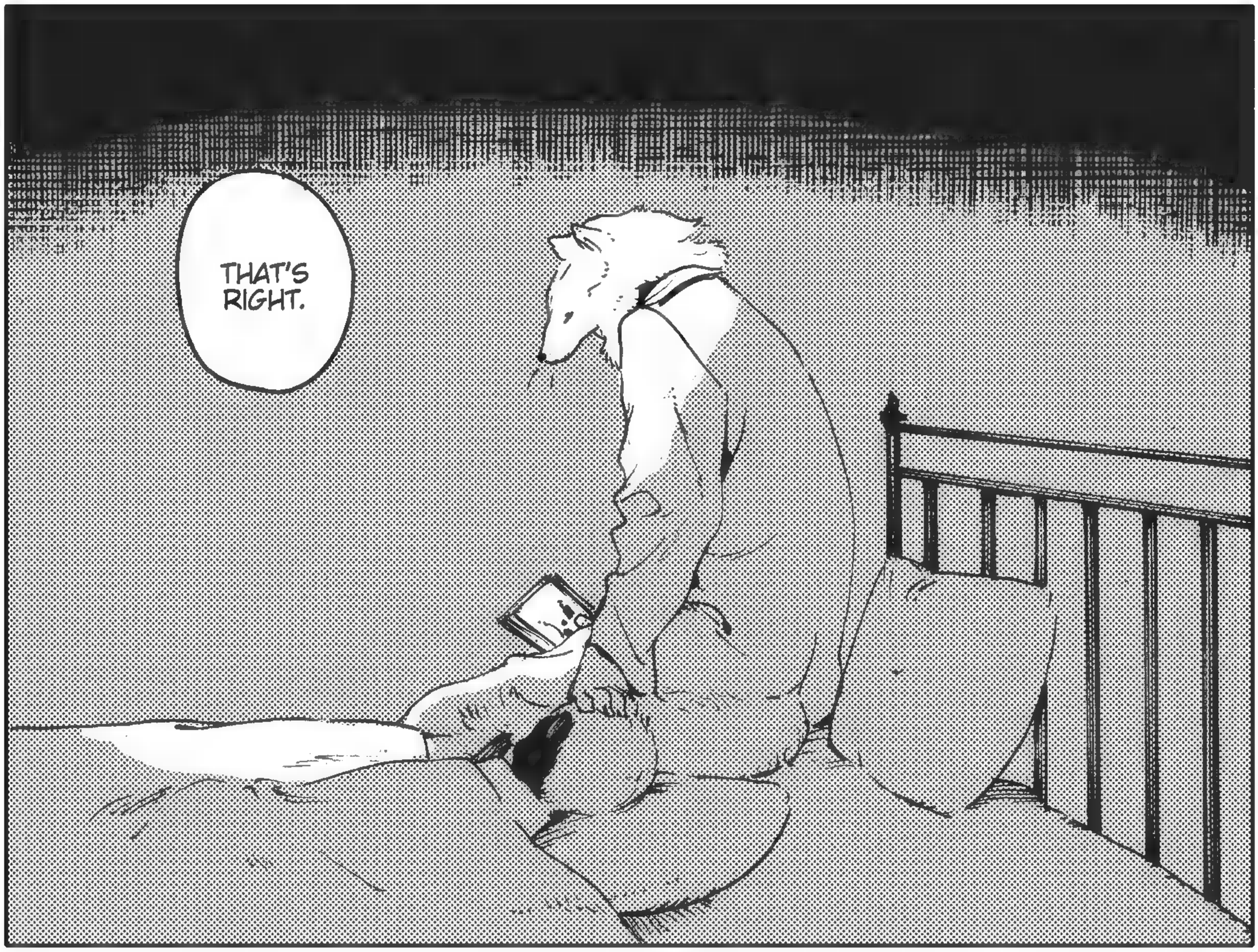
No, my dear.

Why are my hands covered in hair?

Josch-
ka.

But
you are
just the
same as
us...



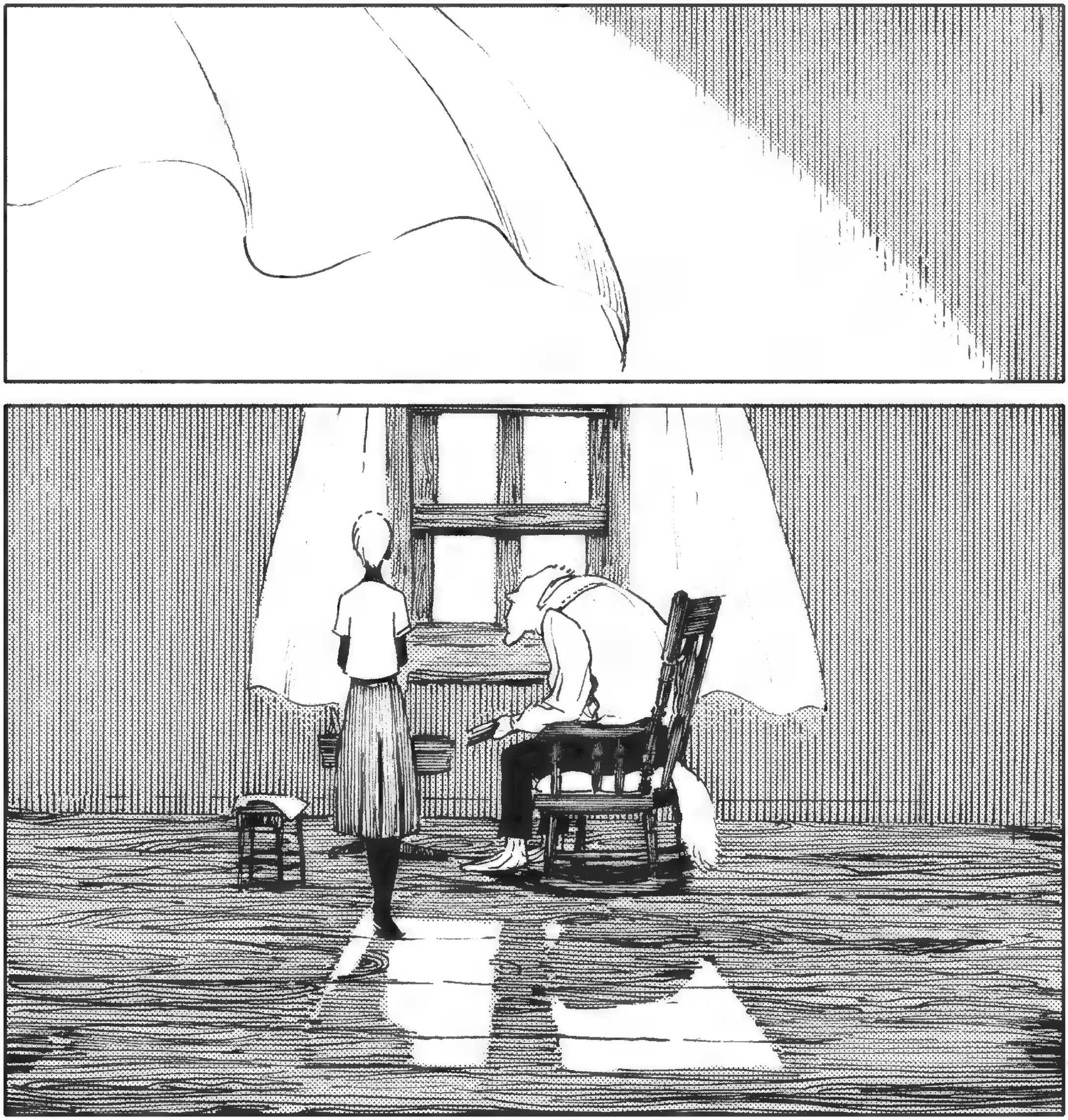

THAT'S RIGHT.

WE'LL SIMPLY KEEP TRYING UNTIL WE GET IT.

THERE'S NO HURRY, IS THERE?

HOWEVER MANY TIMES IT TAKES.

TOGETHER.



DID IT TURN OUT ALL RIGHT?

WELL?

YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH.

YES. IT'S NICELY DONE.

ALL THESE LONG YEARS OF EFFORT, REWARDED.

YOU'VE LEARNED TO SPEAK LIKE A PROPER LADY.

YOU'VE EVEN LEARNED TO COOK QUITE WELL.


OH, YES.
WOULD YOU KINDLY BRING... ER...WHAT WAS IT, NOW...?
THE ROUND ONE.
AH, NO.
IT'S SMALLER.
ROUND-ER.
NO, NO.
AH! THAT.


WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO MARRY ME?

THAT IS PROPER HUMAN TRADITION.

BECOME HUSBAND AND WIFE.

CONDUCT THE WEDDING CEREMONY, PLACE A RING ON THE CORRECT FINGER.

I'VE BEEN WAITING SO LONG, INTENDING TO ASK YOU...

AS SOON AS YOU CAME OF AGE AS A MATURE ADULT HUMAN.

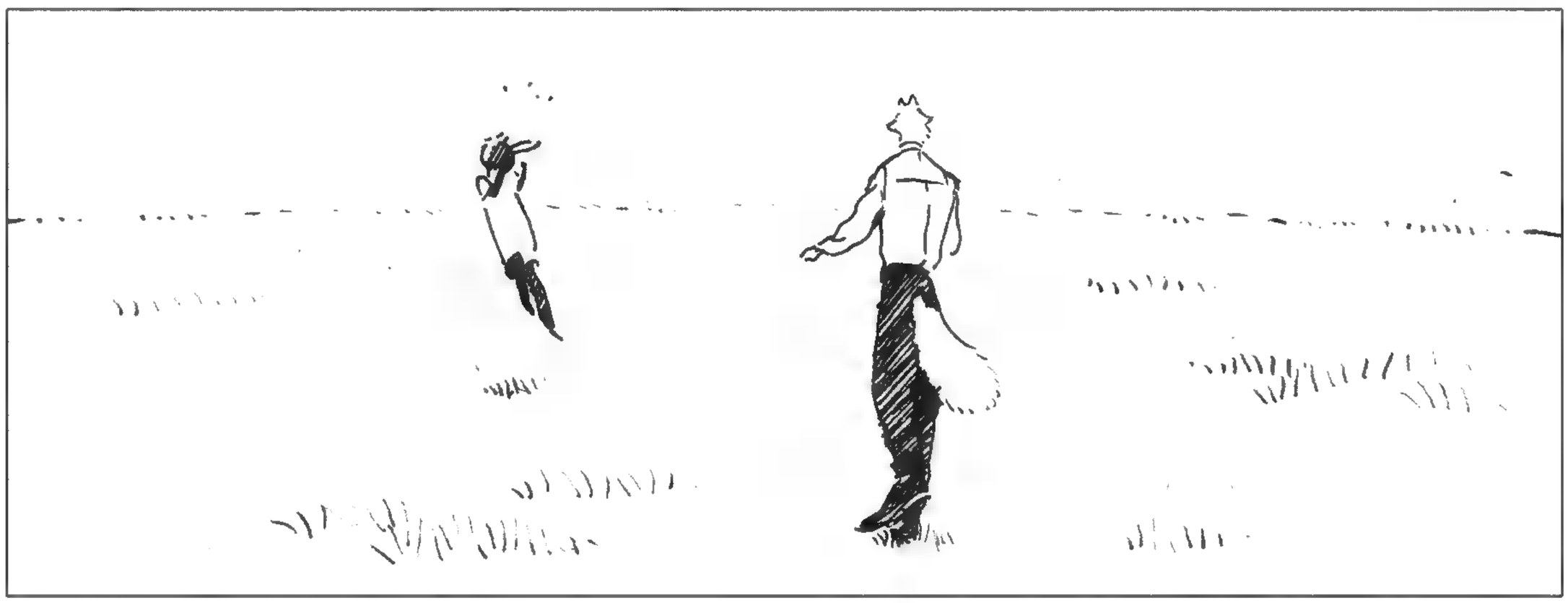
I SUPPOSE IT MAY BE.

WEIRD.

GHUN...

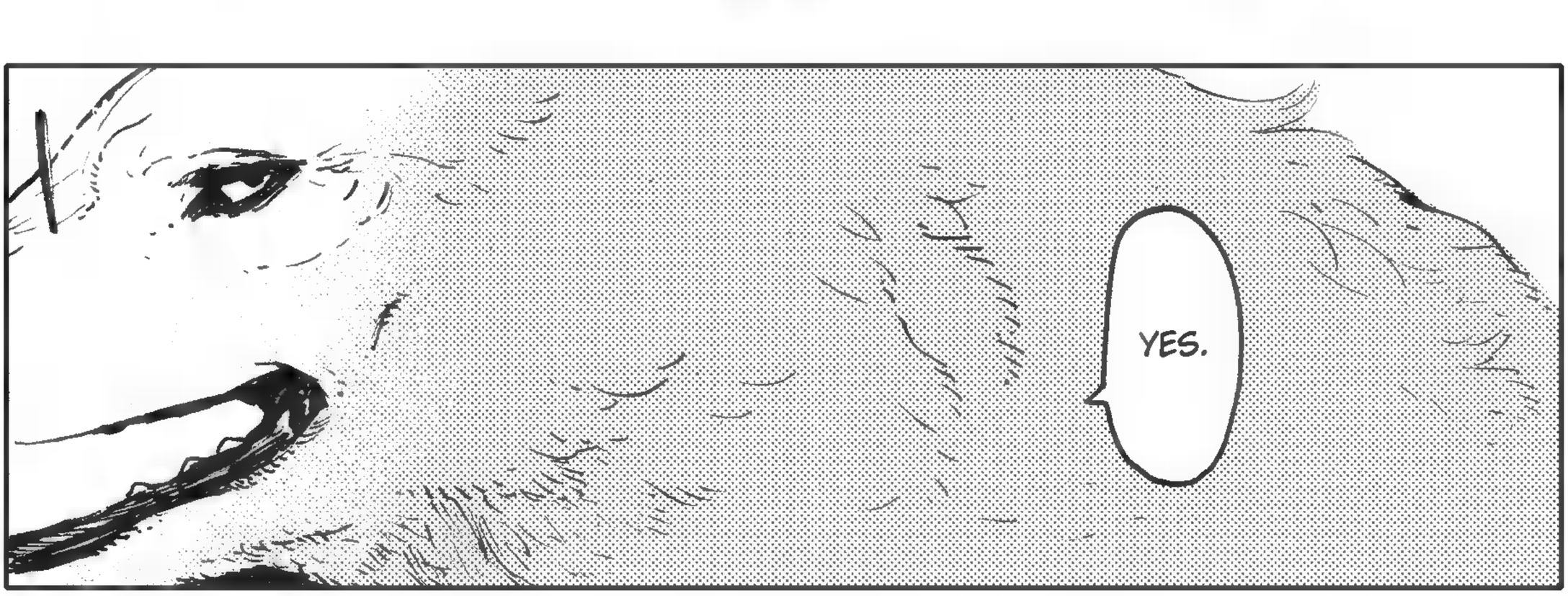
WHY BOTHER WITH ANY OF THAT?

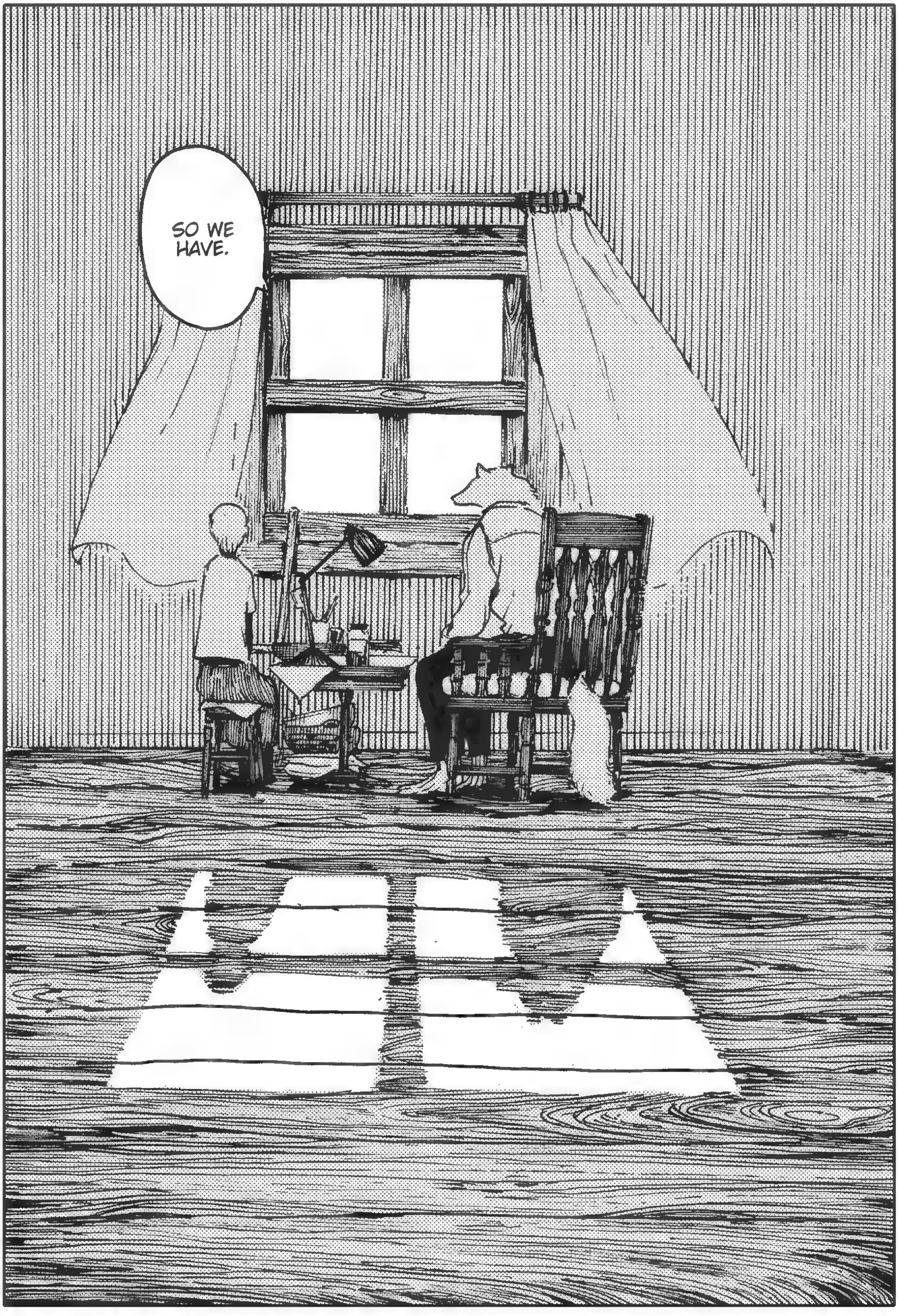

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN MATES.

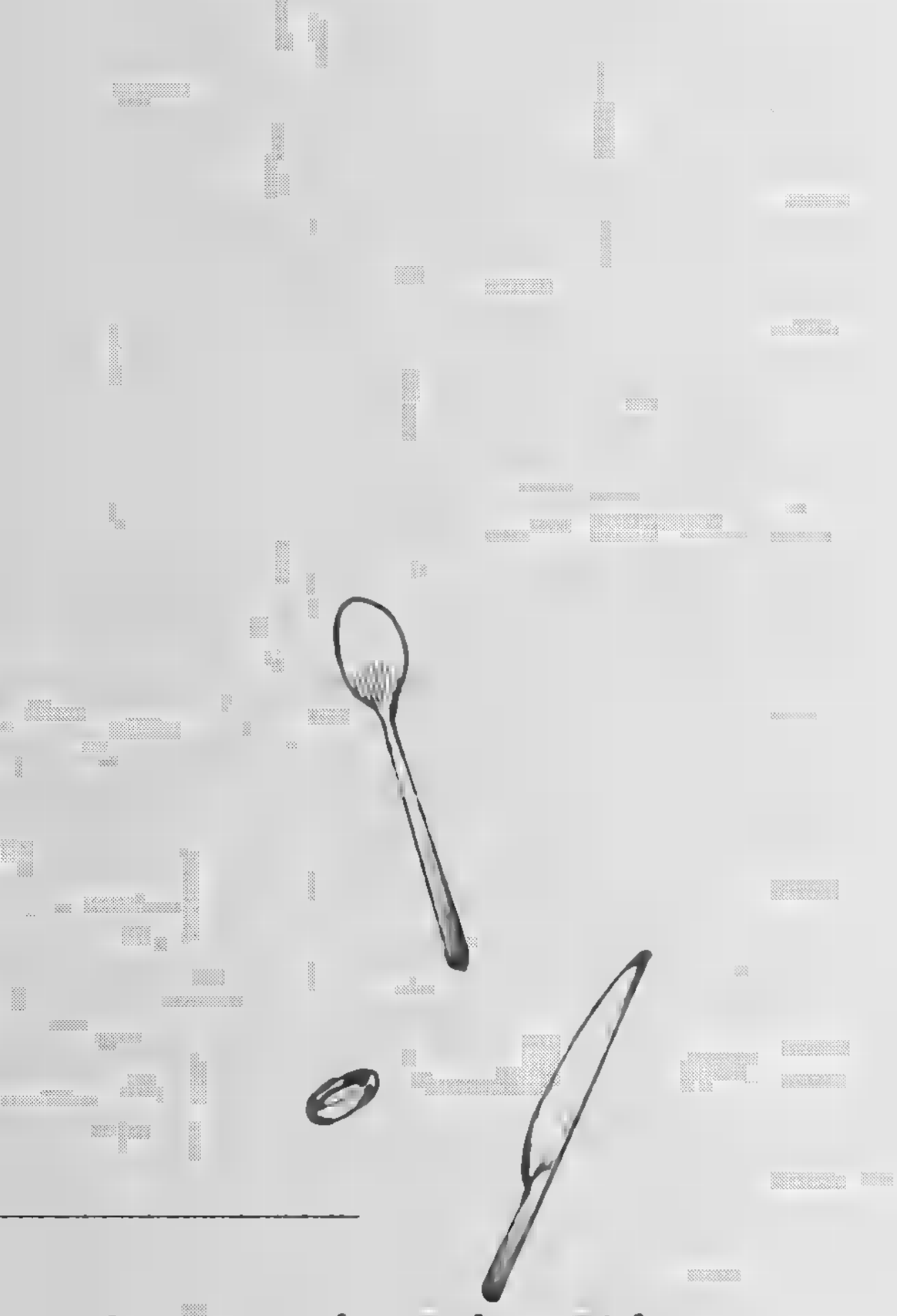







YES.


SO WE HAVE.



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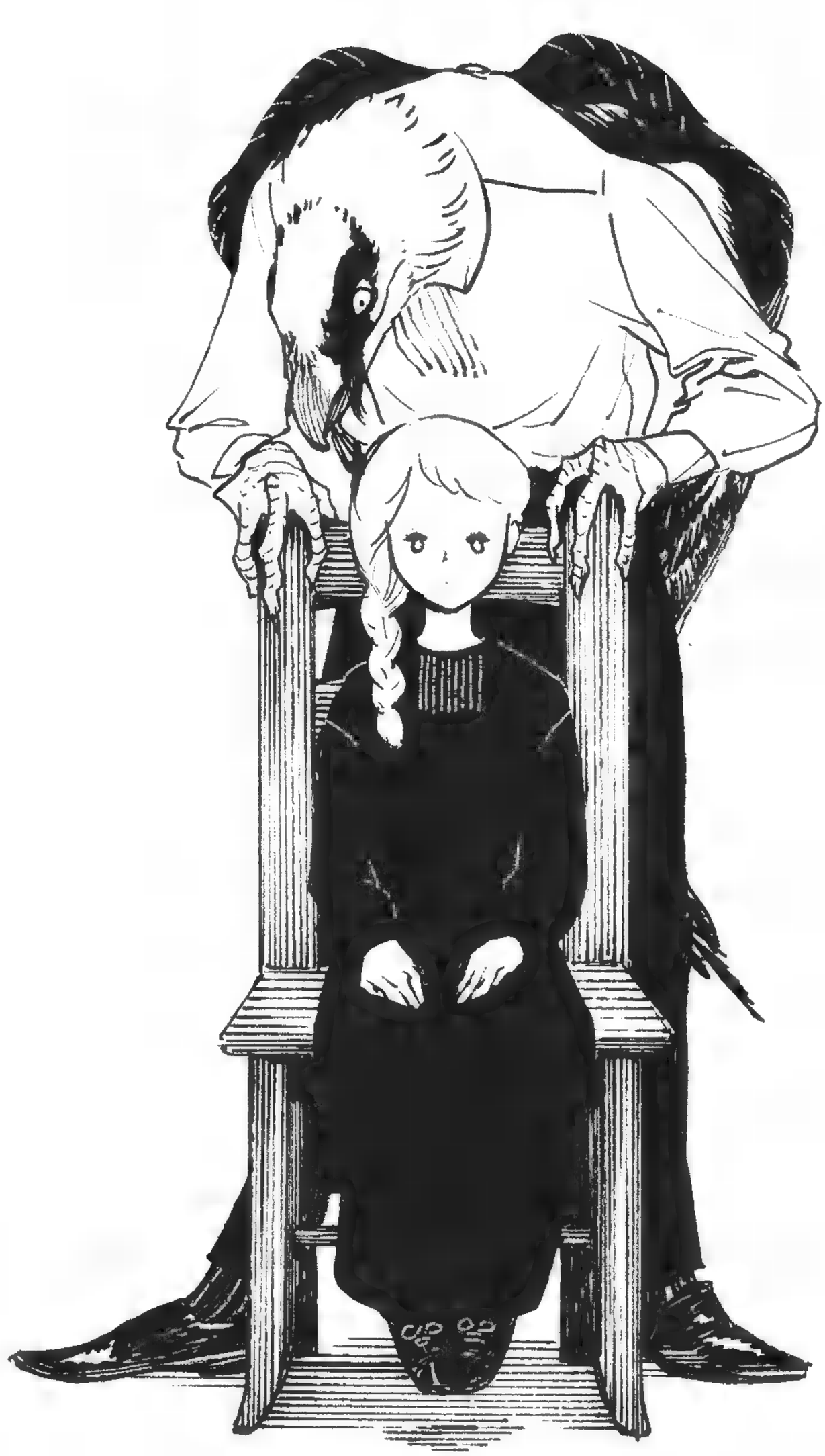
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THERE WE GO.

Emergency Rations & Bountiful Feasts



I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE IT.

I UNDERSTAND THAT HUMAN FEMALES PLAIT THEIR HAIR IN THIS WAY.

YOU LOOK LOVELY, DON'T YOU?

NEXT...

TA-DA!

I ACQUIRED MANY NEW THINGS TODAY, SEE?

MANY, MANY NEW THINGS.

I HOPE YOU'LL ACCEPT THESE NEW CLOTHES AS A GIFT.

GRIN

WELL? DO YOU LIKE THEM?

SMILES

When a human turns up the corners of its mouth, it is called a "smile." It is an expression of pleasure and/or approval. Mimicking the behavior back at them is an appropriate response.

More detail:

NOW, LET'S SEE. THE APPROPRIATE REACTION IS...

GRIN

OKAY.

COME WITH ME...

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. I'D SAY IT'S TIME.

RATIONS.

TP TP TP TP

I'VE TAKEN TO CALLING THIS HUMAN "RATIONS."

WHAT A CONVENIENT MORSEL THIS IS.

GOOD-NESS.

I DECIDED TO SAVE IT FOR LATER.

AND SINCE I HAD IT...

BUT IT WAS THE FIRST LIVE PREY I'D EVER CAUGHT.

I FOUND IT IN A TRASH HEAP A MONTH AGO, PRESUMABLY ABANDONED BY ITS OWN KIND.

IF IT HAD BEEN **DEAD**, I WOULD HAVE FEASTED AT ONCE.

TNK

I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL NURTURE IT. FATTEN IT UP BEFORE I EAT IT.

HERE. ALLOW ME TO SLICE IT INTO SMALLER PIECES FOR YOU.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR HUMAN FEED.

KLINK
KLINK

SLF

EVEN AFTER SUCH A BRIEF TIME, IT LOOKS MUCH TASTIER.

THAT'S IT, RATIONS.

ITS FRAME SEEMS MUCH STURDIER.

IT'S MARKEDLY **PLUMPER** THAN WHEN I FIRST FOUND IT.

KEEP GROWING EVER MORE DELICIOUS FOR ME.

TNK

THERE.

THAT WAS CLOSE.

KREE

ONCE YOU'VE EATEN, YOUR TIME IS YOUR OWN.

ALL MY EFFORT RAISING IT WOULD GO TO WASTE.

WHAT FOOL EATS THEIR EMERGENCY RATIONS WHEN THERE IS NO EMERGENCY?

TUNK

HOWDY!

I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF SUPPLIES ON HAND.

TINK TINK TINK TINK

MORE GIFTS, PERHAPS?

MAYBE I'LL FIND MORE AT MY USUAL GARBAGE PILE.

HRM... WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MAKE IT GROW EVEN MORE ATTACHED TO ME?

IT'S STARTING TO GROW FOND OF ME, AS WELL.

I'LL SIMPLY CONTINUE ON AS I HAVE BEEN.

I HAVE TO ENSURE I DON'T MAKE IT WARY AND FRIGHTEN IT OFF.

ALL RIGHT.

PAMF

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HUMAN LANGUAGE.

NOT THAT IT SPEAKS MUCH, ANYWAY.

I MUSTN'T LET THE "GOOD, HARMLESS BIRD" ACT SLIP.

YOU'RE PLAYING WITH IT ALREADY? HOW NICE!

SIR-A

ARE YOU GIVING THIS TO ME...?

HM? ?

WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING?

I SEE!

SKRNCH

I'LL DISCARD IT LATER, WHEN RATIONS ISN'T LOOKING.

IT'S GIVING ME THIS TRASH? WHAT WOULD I WANT WITH IT?

WHAT AN UTTER FARCE.

RATIONS.

AND YET...

GRIN

EVERYTHING IS GOING SMOOTHLY.

AHH...

IT GROWS MORE TEMPTING AND DELECTABLE BY THE DAY.

ALL I NEED TO DO NOW IS BIDE MY TIME.

STILL...

IT'S BONES ARE SURELY BURSTING WITH SAVORY, SUCCULENT MARROW.

I'M SURE ITS MEAT MUST BE TENDER AND JUICY BY NOW.

IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO WAIT.

I WANT TO TASTE IT.

I WANT TO TASTE IT NOW.

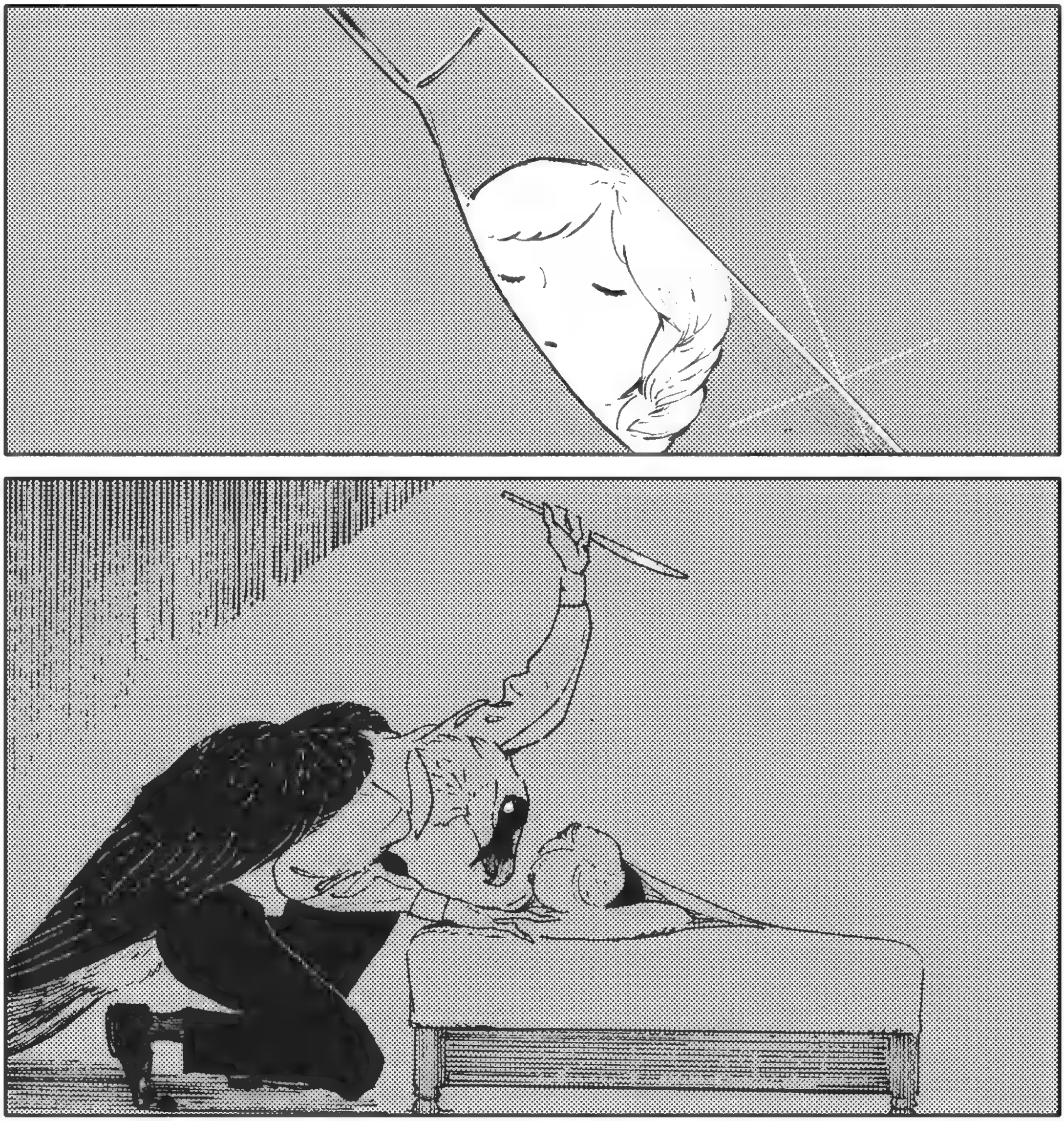
THIS IS ALL A BIT NERVE-WRACKING.

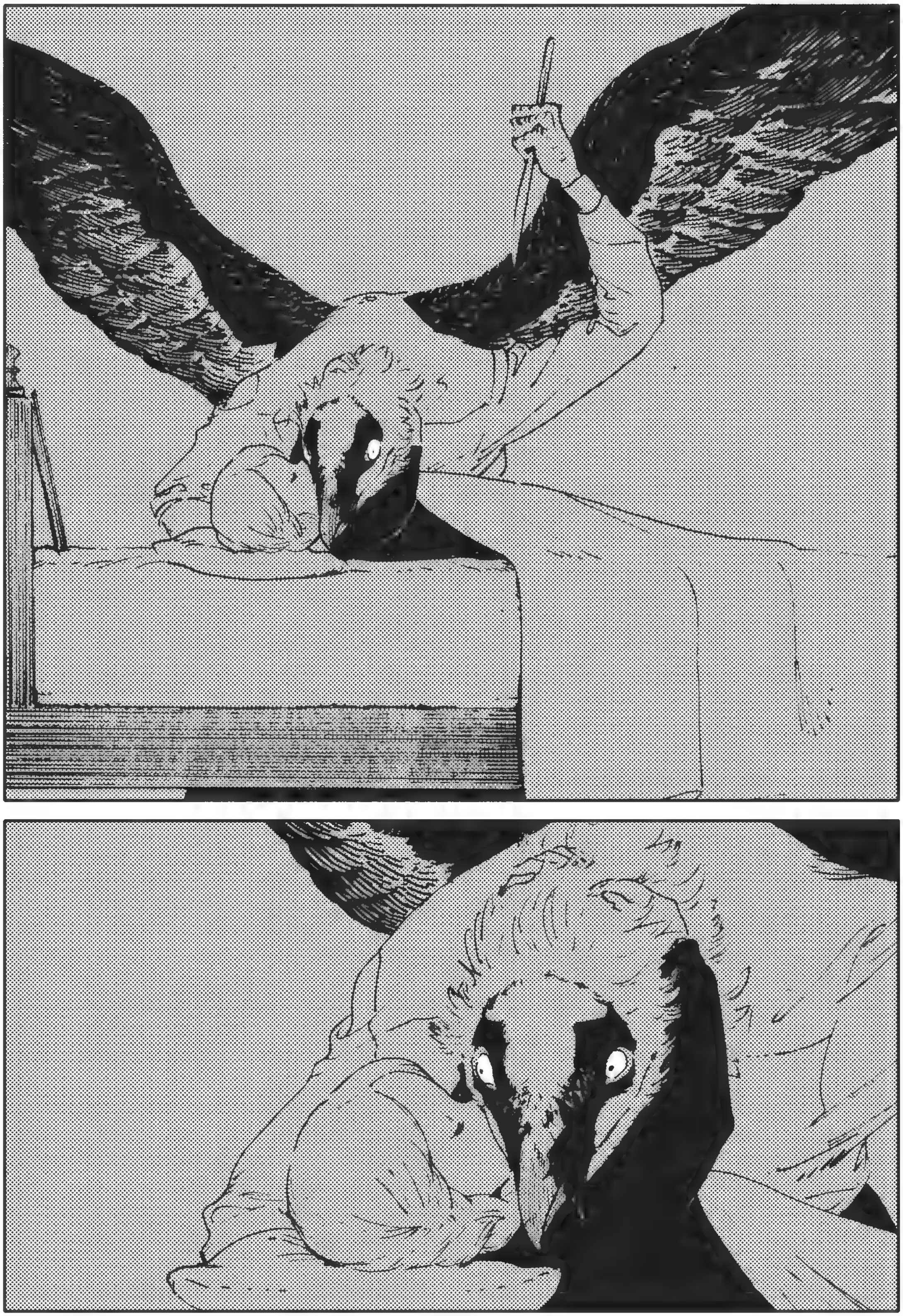
IT WILL BE ELEVATED FROM MERE RATIONS...

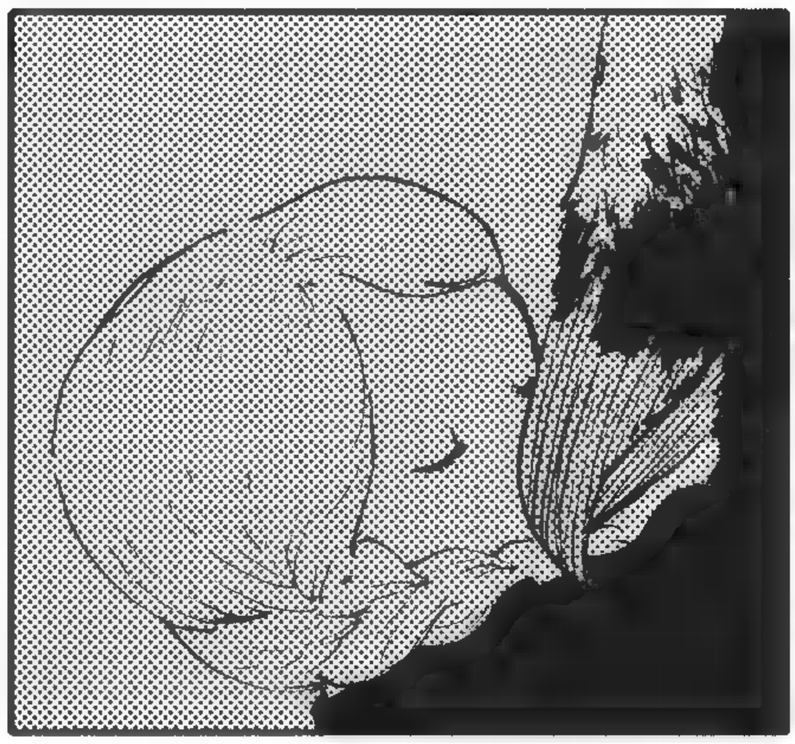
WHAT'S MORE, I'M SURE THIS WILL BE AN HONOR FOR IT AS WELL.

TO A SUMPTUOUS FEAST.

I'VE INVESTED TIME AND EFFORT INTO RAISING IT.








.....


SOME SORT OF HUMAN INSTINCT?
OR IS IT ACTING MIND-LESSLY IN ITS SLEEP?


HRM?!
WHAT IS IT DOING?

IT TRULY IS THE MOST CONVENIENT MEAL IMAGINABLE.

EVEN NOW, IT CLUTCHES AT THE ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO EAT IT.

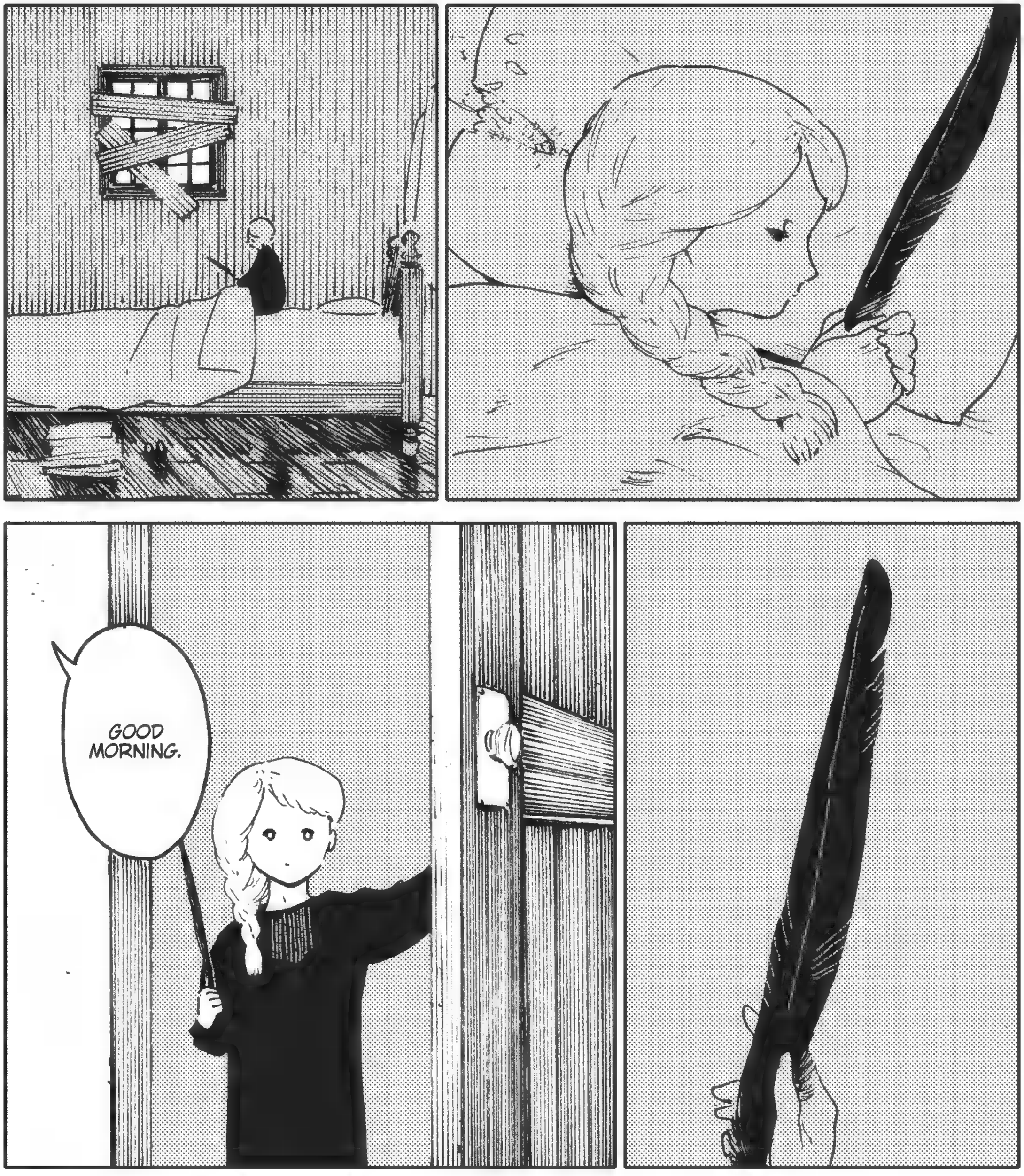
IT INNOCENTLY BELIEVES MY SHOW OF LOVE IS GENUINE.

IT'S COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO MY DECEPTION.

YES, YOU TRULY ARE A WONDERFUL MEAL, RATIONS.

SHLUK

GOOD NIGHT.


GOOD MORNING.

DID YOU SLEEP WELL?

TOO SMALL. TOO STRINGY. YOU WILL NEVER BE A SUCCULENT FEAST, I'M AFRAID.

YOU WON'T BE TASTY AT ALL, I'M SURE. NO, NO.

YOU ARE A DEFECTIVE PRODUCT.

I TAKE BACK EVERY-THING I SAID.

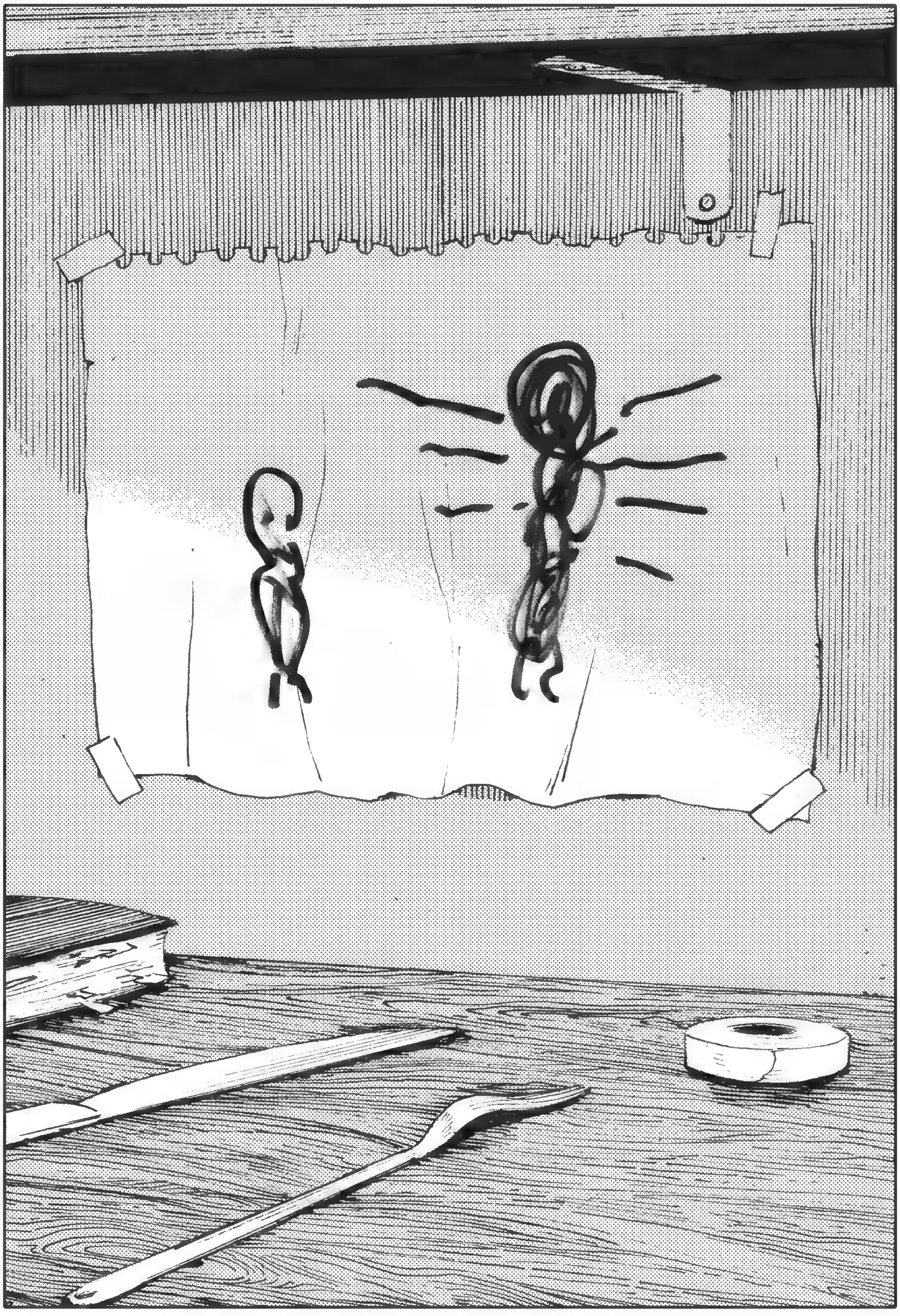
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE...

THAN MY RATIONS.

IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE, YOU'VE FALLEN FOR ME.

THAT'S RIGHT, RATIONS.

STILL, WHY DON'T WE CONTINUE THIS FARCE FOR A LITTLE LONGER?





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UN.

DEUX.

TROIS.

UN.

DEUX.

OUI.
NICELY
DONE.

Midnight Waltz



YOU REALLY THINK SO?

YES, ABSO-LUTELY.

YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE GOOD AT THIS!

HEE HEE!

IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU'VE TAUGHT ME SO PATIENTLY EVERY DAY, COREY.

OH, IS THAT SO?

ESPECIALLY GIVEN HOW MUCH YOU TRIPPED OVER YOUR OWN FEET AT FIRST.

EEP!

DID YOU INVITE THEM?

YES.

OH! MR. FOX. I DIDN'T SEE YOU.

GOOD EVENING.

KON!

I BELIEVE I'VE TOLD YOU I CAN SPEAK WITH ANIMALS?

I THOUGHT "THE MORE THE MERRIER" MIGHT BE IN ORDER FOR THIS EVENING.

SO CONSID-ERATE OF OTHERS.

THAT'S A VAMPIRE LORD FOR YOU.

NO, NO. PLEASE DON'T CALL ME THAT.

MASTER.

WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THIS EVENING'S BALL.

COREY GAVE IT TO ME. ISN'T IT DAPPER?

MASTER GORA!

MY NAME IS "GORA" NOW!

I ASSURE YOU, IT WILL ONLY ADD TO THE EVENING.

TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION OF YOUR INVITATION.

PLEASE ALLOW US TO PLAY FOR YOU...

MASTER GORA.

THAT'S SO KIND OF THEM.

THEY'VE OFFERED TO PLAY FOR US.

HM?

OH!

WHAT IS EVERYONE SAYING, GORA?

QUITE RIGHT! HE SPENT SO LONG ALL ALONE IN THIS SPRAWLING MANOR.

MASTER LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'S HAVING A SPLENDID TIME.

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THAT HUMAN FIRST VISITED.

WE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!

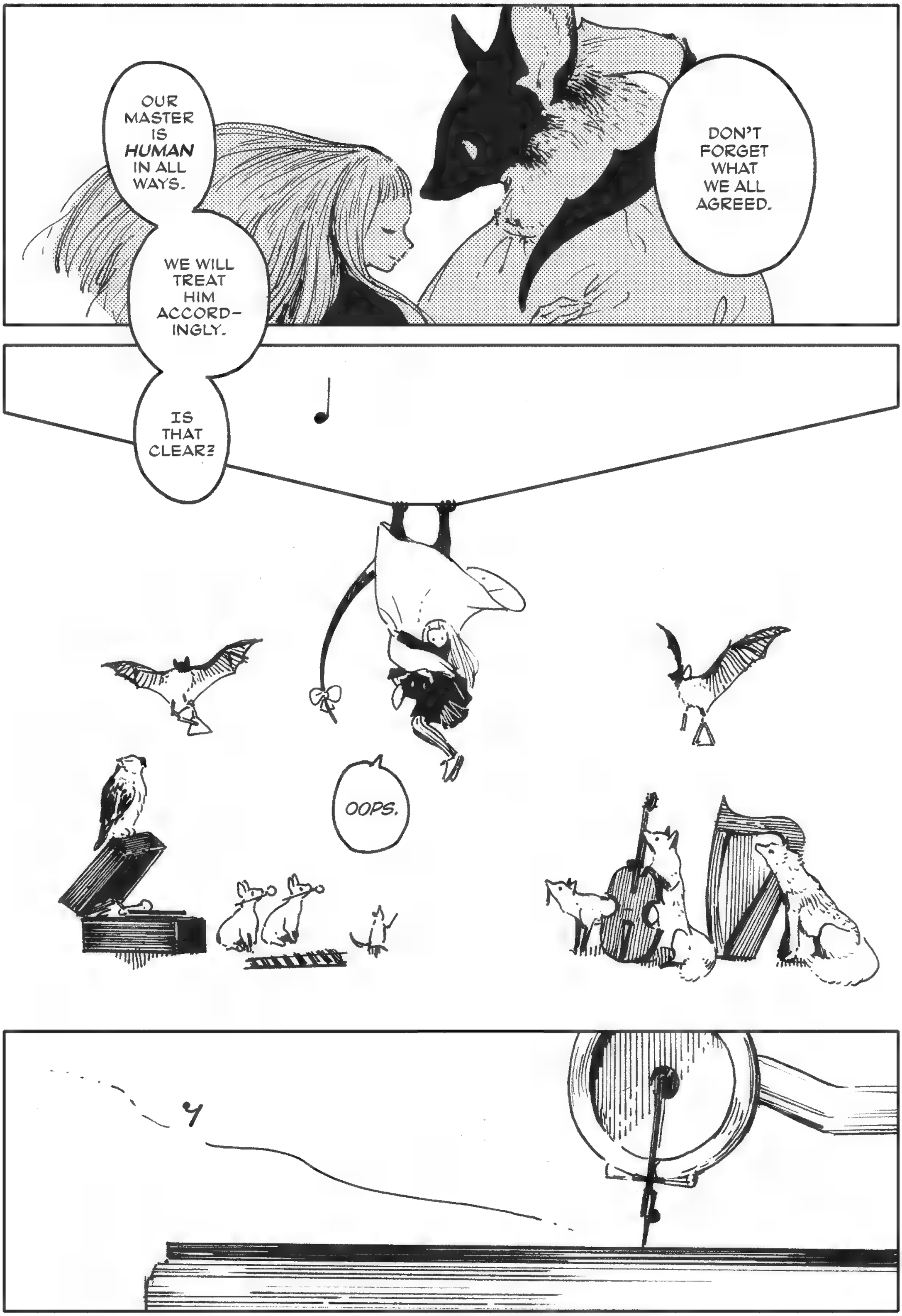
NOW EVERY EVENING IS FILLED WITH JOYOUS BALLS AND ENTERTAIN-MENTS.

BUT WILL ALL BE WELL IN THE END?

NO ONE IN THE WORLD WOULD MISTAKE MASTER FOR HUMAN.

SHH!

WE MUSTN'T MENTION MASTER'S FORM IN HIS PRES-ENCE.


OUR MASTER IS *HUMAN* IN ALL WAYS.
WE WILL TREAT HIM ACCORD-INGLY.
IS THAT CLEAR?
DON'T FORGET WHAT WE ALL AGREED.
OOPS.

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF ONE WERE SET ASIDE FOR ME?

OF COURSE!

REALLY?

WHAT IS IT?

SAY, GORA?

MIGHT I ASK A FAVOR?

THERE ARE SO MANY ROOMS IN THIS MANOR.

CERTAINLY! THERE'S FAR MORE SPACE THAN I COULD EVER USE.

WHY DO YOU ASK?

I DON'T HAVE TO RETURN TO MY OLD HOME ANYMORE.

OH?

I-I WAS THINKING ABOUT COMING TO LIVE HERE PERMA-NENTLY.

OH, ONE MORE THING!

YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME!

THEN BY ALL MEANS! FEEL FREE TO USE ANY ROOM THAT PLEASES YOU!

WELL?

I MADE A COLLAR FOR YOU.

YOUR OUTFIT STILL SEEMED TO BE MISSING SOME-THING.

HMM...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OH!

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT SUITS YOU!

YES.

HRM……

OH?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE OTHERS?

ARE YOU SURE? ISN'T IT ODD?

IT LOOKS QUITE NATURAL ON YOU.

IT WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK ODD ON ONE OF US, AS WE'RE BEASTS.

BUT YOU ARE HUMAN, MASTER.

IT SUITS YOU PERFECTLY, MASTER GORA!

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT!

THEY SAY IT SUITS ME.

LET'S SEE.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.

AFTER ALL, I MADE EVERY PIECE...

REALLY?

I KNOW WHERE TO GET SHOES THAT NO ONE'S USING. I'LL BRING THEM.

HOW ABOUT A PAIR OF **SHOES** NEXT?

chu

GORA.

OF COURSE! THIS IS ALL FOR YOU...

SHE TOUCHED HER LIPS TO MINE. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

MR. OWL.

AIEM!

I'LL TEACH YOU SOME OTHER TIME, MASTER.

ALL RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE REST A LITTLE BEFORE DANCING AGAIN?

PHEW! THAT WENT WELL.

IF IT BRINGS THE MASTER JOY, I'M HAPPY TO DO IT.

IT ALL MAKES ME A TAD UNCOM-FORTABLE.

OH, COME.

EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NO SHADOW AND NO REFLEC-TION...

WHICH CLEARLY IDENTIFY A VAMPIRE.

YES. HE'S COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT HE'S HUMAN.

WE HAVE HIM THOROUGH-LY FOOLED.

YES. THEY CALLED HIM A **FAILURE.**

I HEARD IT WAS BECAUSE HIS FORM DIDN'T COALESCE PROPERLY.

HOW CRUEL.

ISN'T THAT WHY THE HOUSE OF DRACULA ABANDONED HIM...

HE DOES HAVE A MONSTROUS APPEARANCE.

IN THIS CRUMBLING FOREST MANOR?

WHAT IF HE LEARNED THAT HE'S NOT HUMAN AFTER ALL?

AND WHAT IF THE WORST CAME TO PASS?

LISTEN CLOSELY, ALL OF YOU.

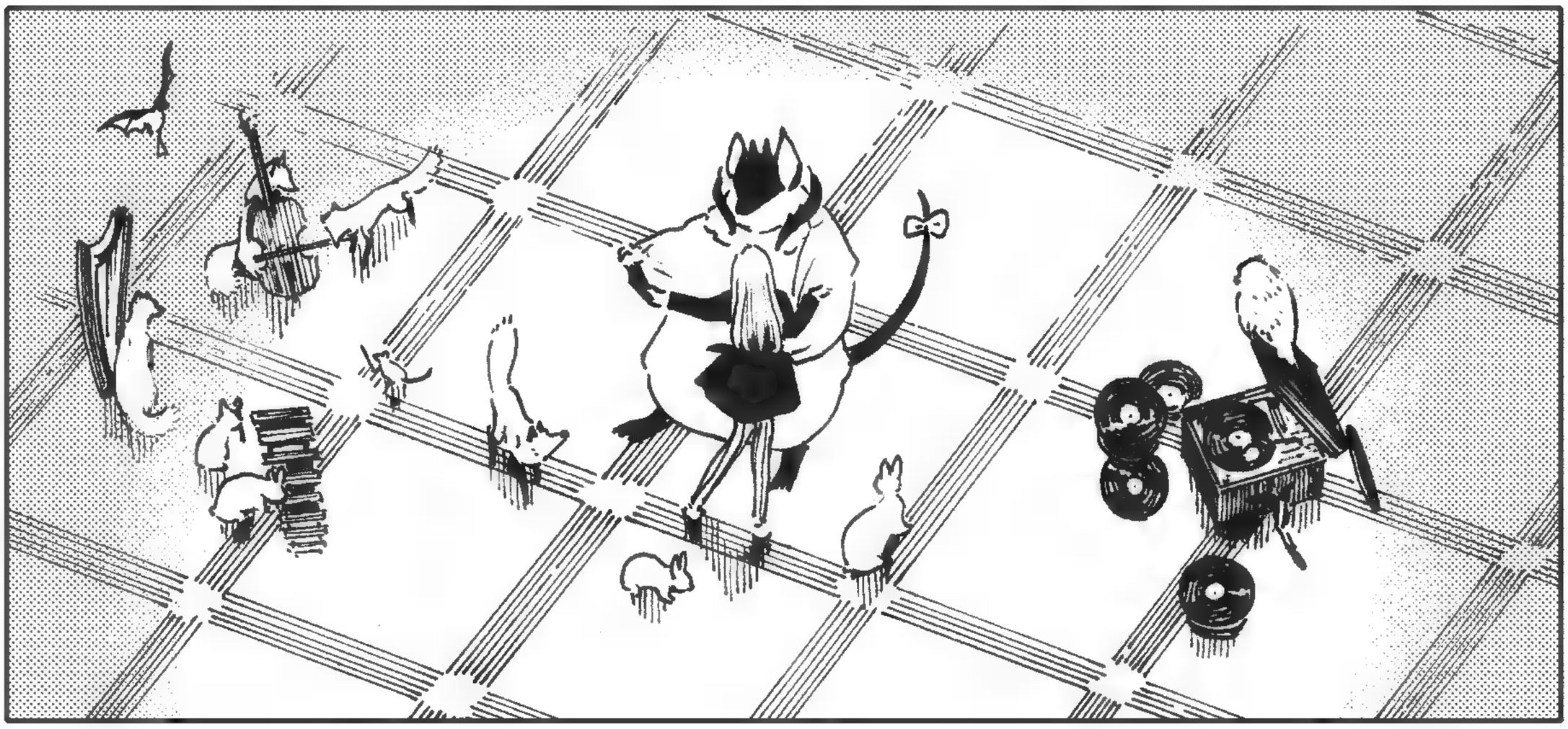
IF ONLY HIS FORM WERE MORE LIKE OURS. THEN AT LEAST HE COULD GO OUTSIDE.

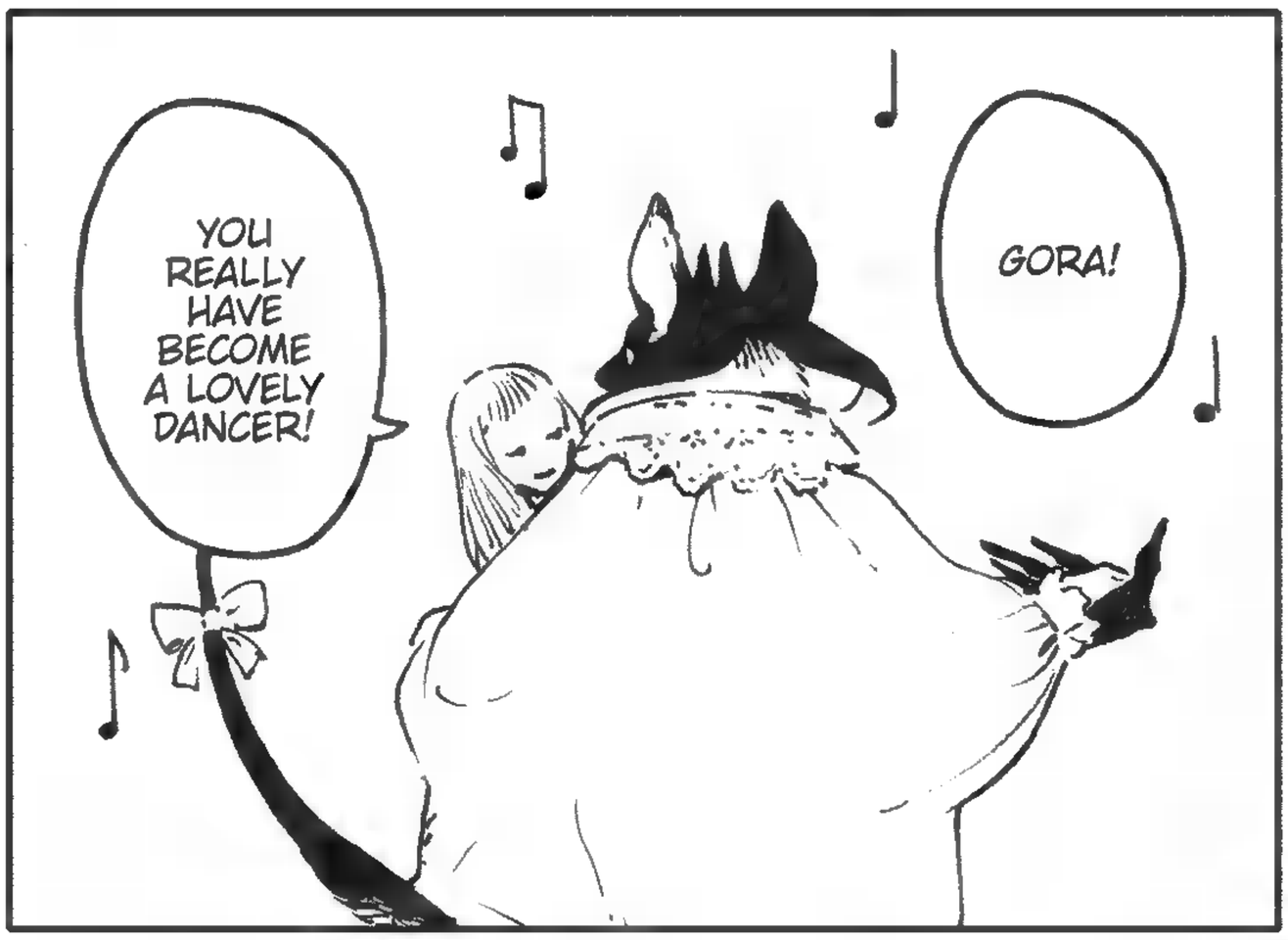
HE'S STILL TERRIBLY YOUNG.

THE MASTER WILL BE DISTRAUGHT IF HE EVER LEARNS THE TRUTH.

THE MASTER HAS THE APPEARANCE OF A MONSTER.

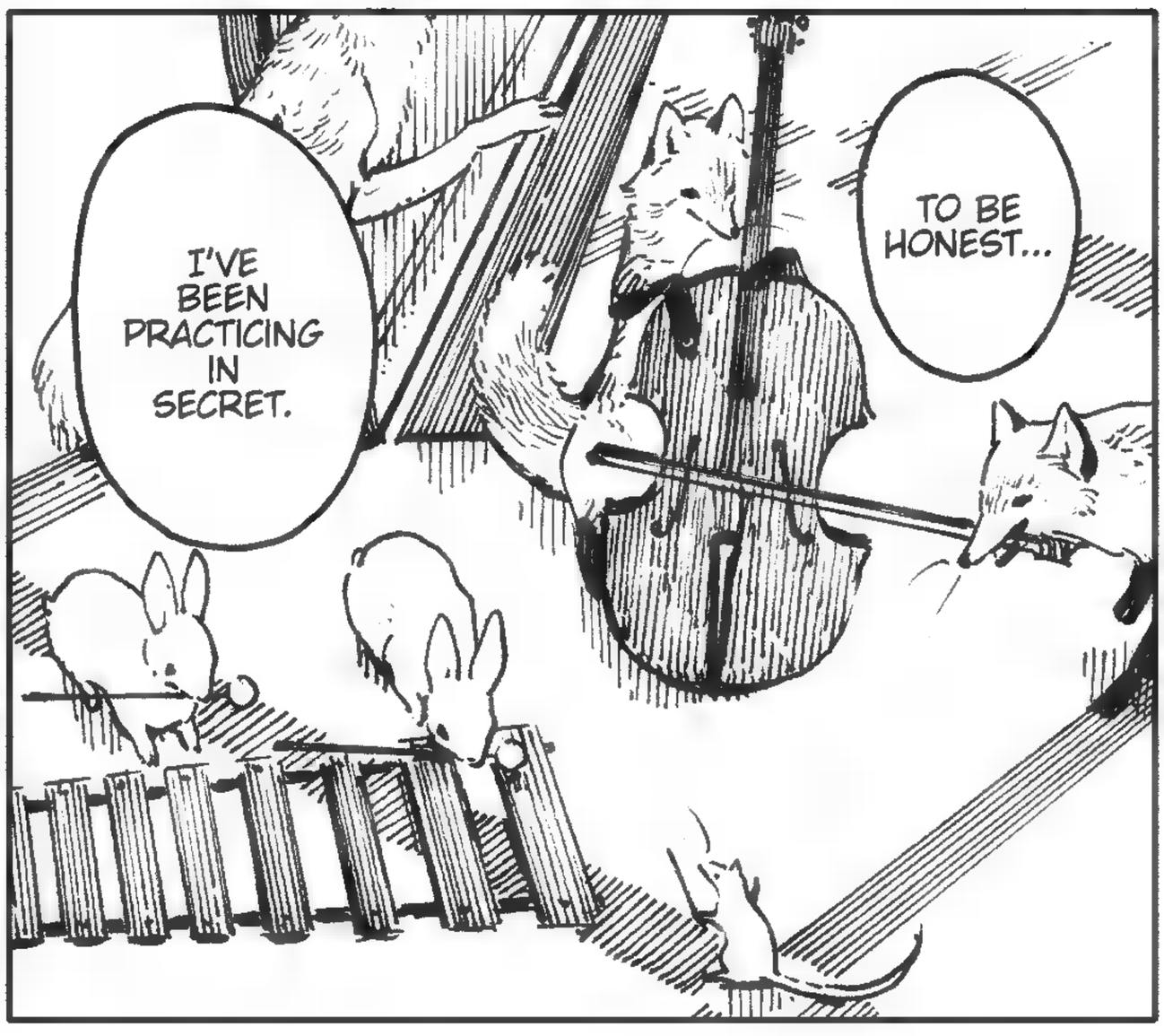
NONE OF US CAN EVER, **EVER** LET SLIP THAT...




YOU REALLY HAVE BECOME A LOVELY DANCER!
GORA!




THAT STANDS TO REASON!
BUT IT NEVER GOES SO WELL WHEN I TRY IT ON MY OWN.


I'VE BEEN PRACTICING IN SECRET.
TO BE HONEST...

A PROPER WALTZ REQUIRES TWO PARTNERS.

I...

COREY...


I AM HUMAN... AREN'T I...?

TELL ME. AM I HUMAN?

PLEASE, COREY.

TUCKED IN A DARK CORNER OF MY MIND...

SOME-WHERE...

A PIECE OF ME WONDERS.

THAT LITTLE VOICE WHISPERS TO ME.

HOW COULD I BE?

I MEAN...

IT SAYS THAT I'M NOT HUMAN AT ALL.

THE TRUTH IS, I'M A MONSTER.

I'M FAR TOO DIFFERENT.

IN SO MANY WAYS...

FOR SO VERY LONG.

SO VERY ALONE...

THAT'S WHY I WAS LEFT HERE...

I-I'LL KEEP **PRETENDING** TO BE HUMAN, I PROMISE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE.

COREY...?

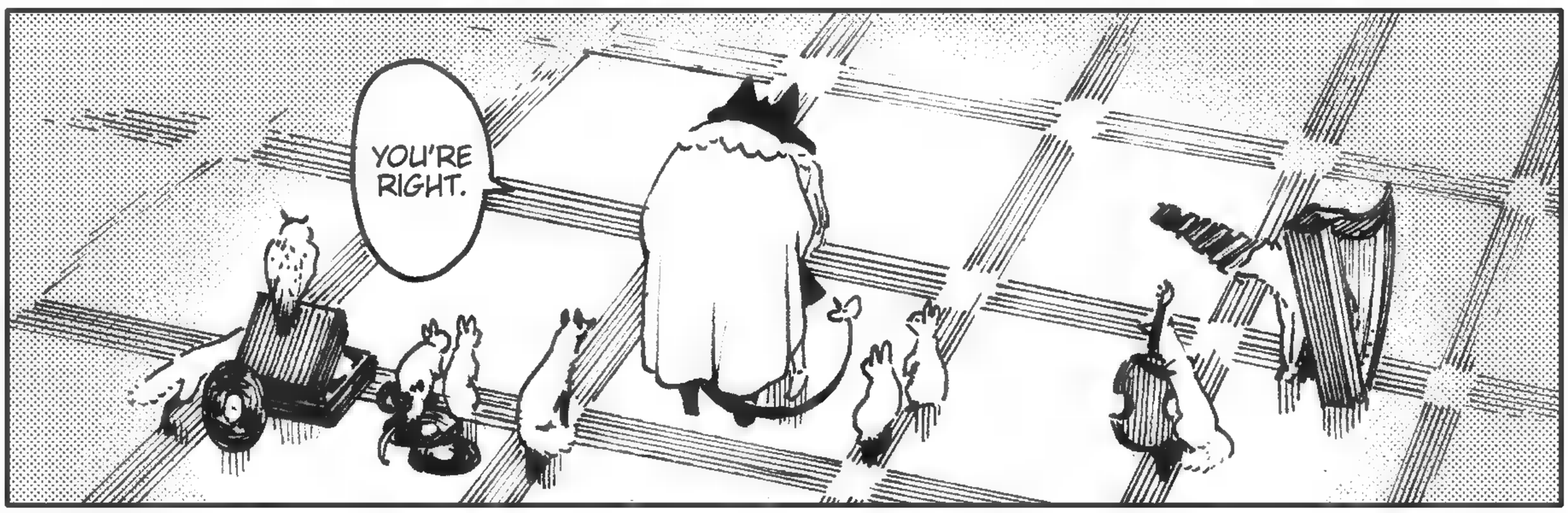
EVEN IF YOU MUST LIE, I'LL BELIEVE YOU.

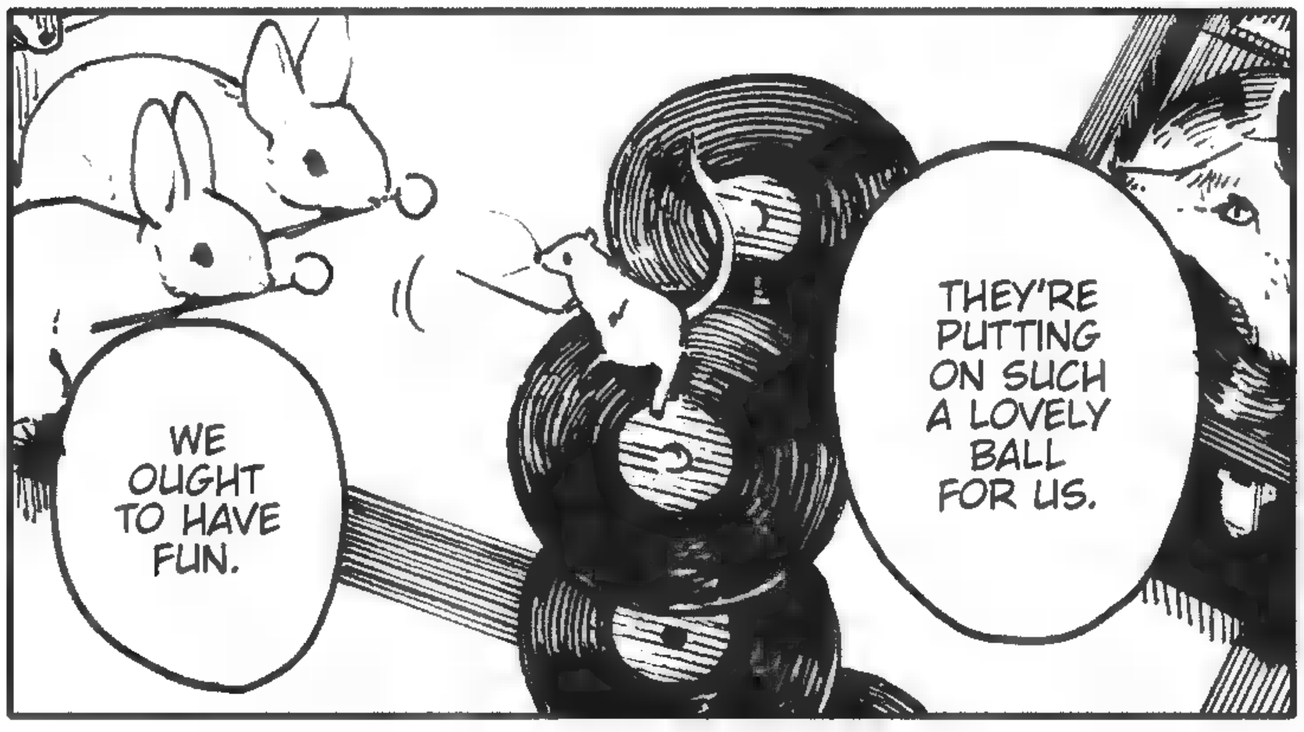
OF COURSE YOU ARE.

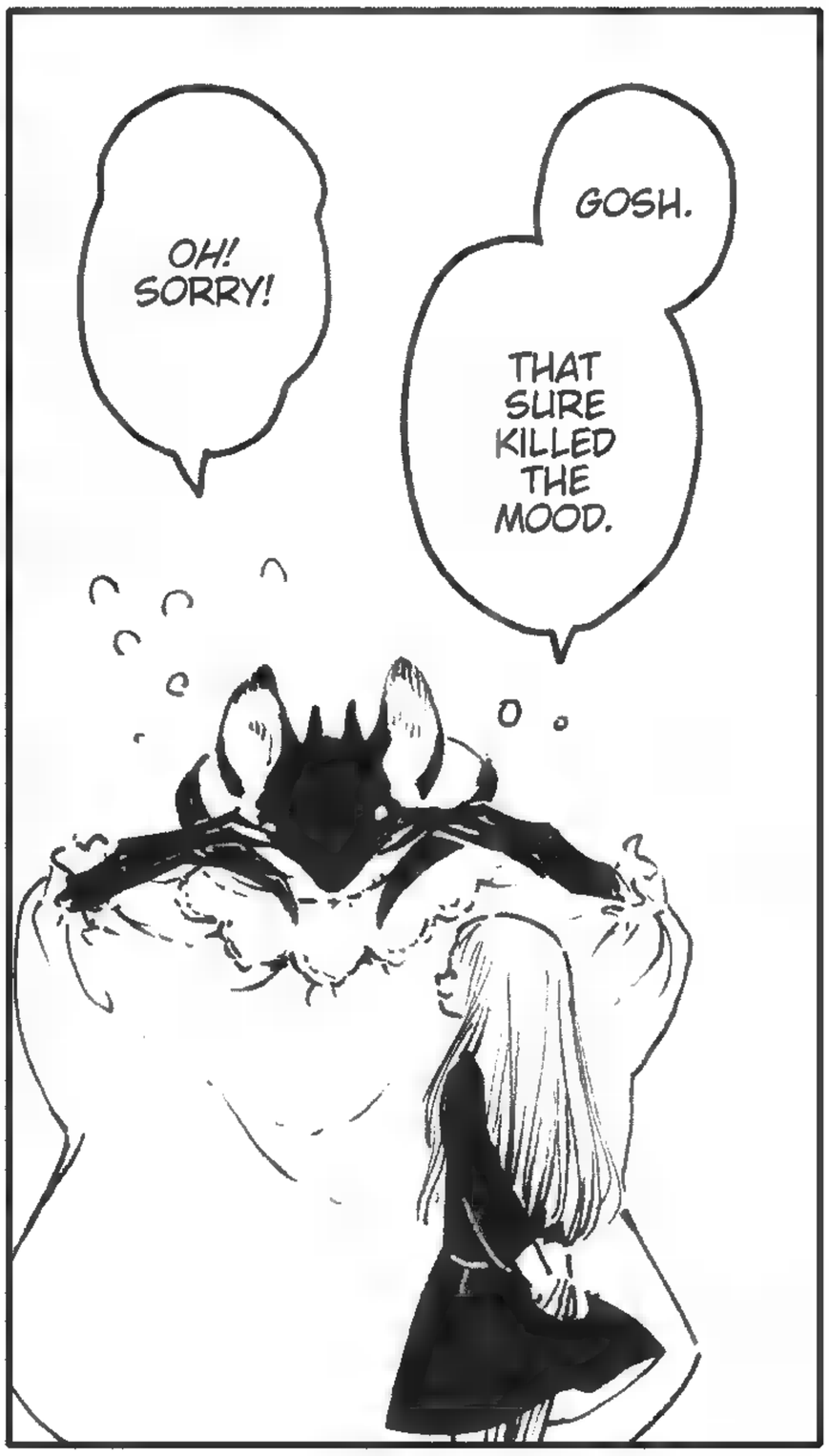
POSSIBLY BE MY DANCE PARTNER?

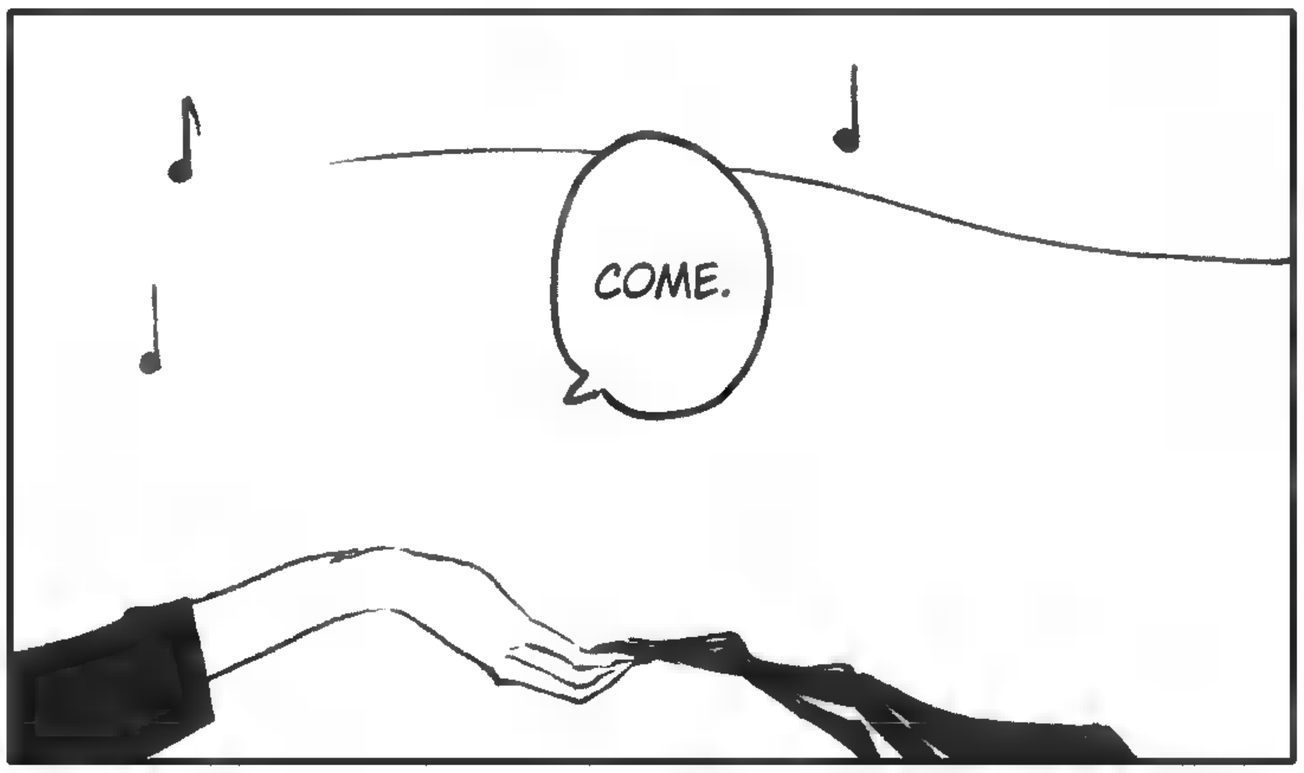
HOW ELSE COULD YOU...


OH, GORA.


YOU'RE RIGHT.

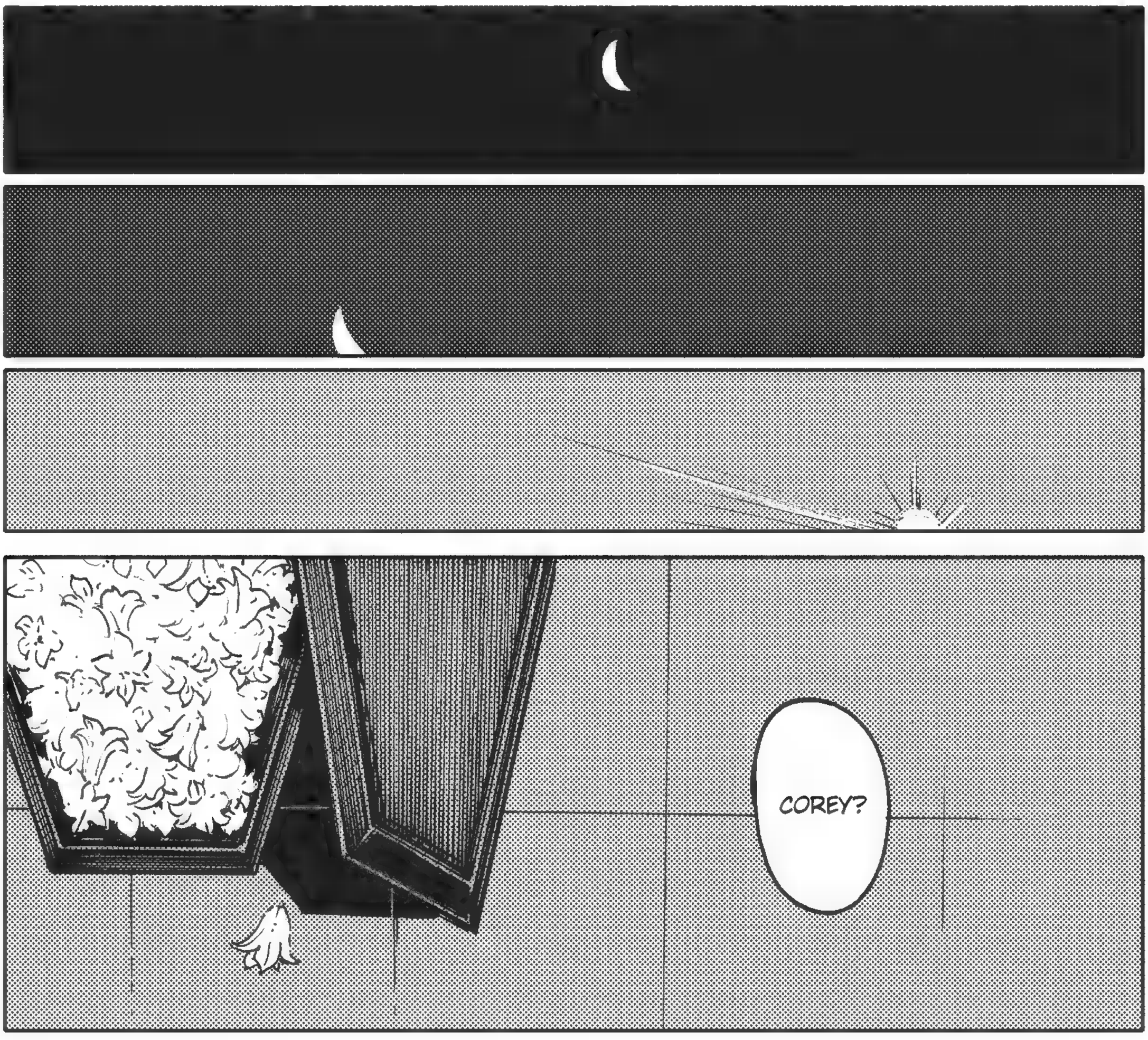

WE OUGHT TO HAVE FUN.
THEY'RE PUTTING ON SUCH A LOVELY BALL FOR US.


OH! SORRY!
GOSH.
THAT SURE KILLED THE MOOD.


COME.



LET'S DANCE.



COREY?

NO, NO. THANK YOU.

I HAD A LOVELY TIME AGAIN TONIGHT. THANK YOU.

COREY?

WHY DID YOU VISIT THIS MANOR IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I'M NEVER HAPPIER THAN WHEN I'M WITH YOU.

IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THESE EVENINGS MORE THAN ANYTHING.

DANCING WITH YOU IS THE ONE JOY I HAVE.

WHY? BECAUSE ...

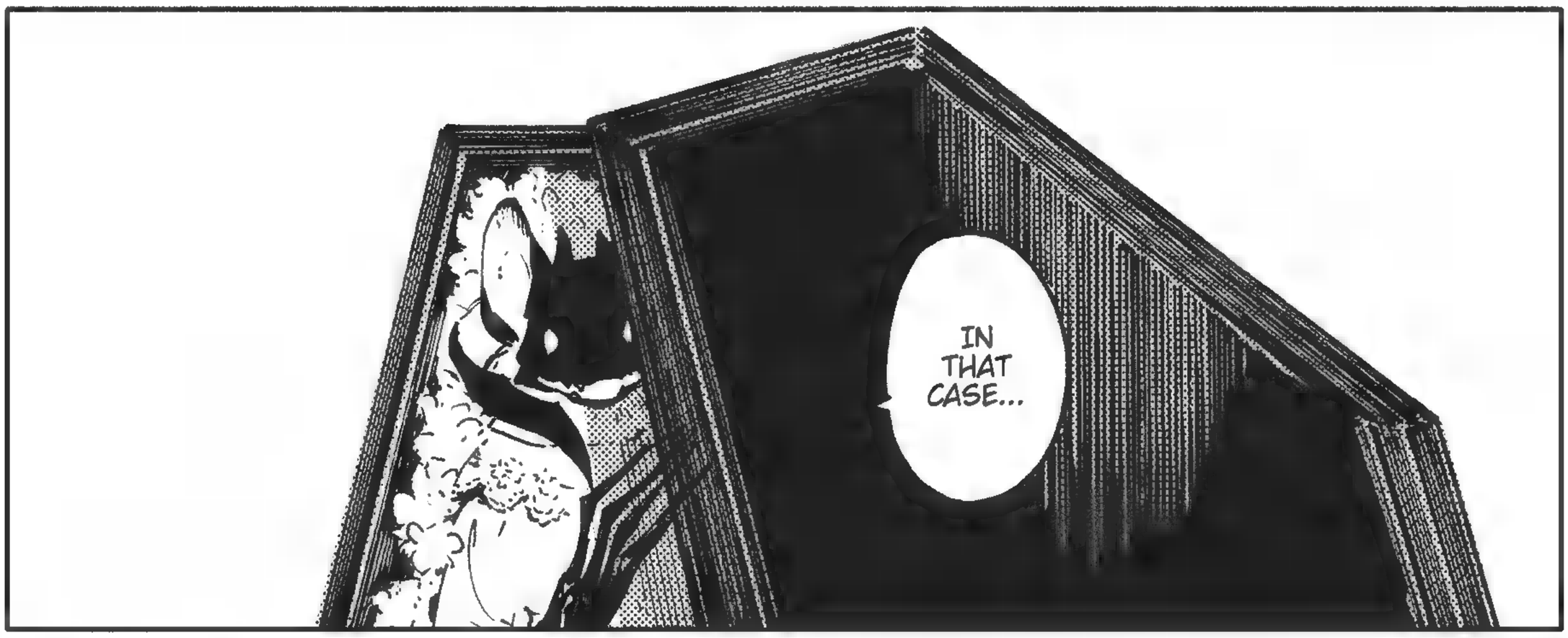
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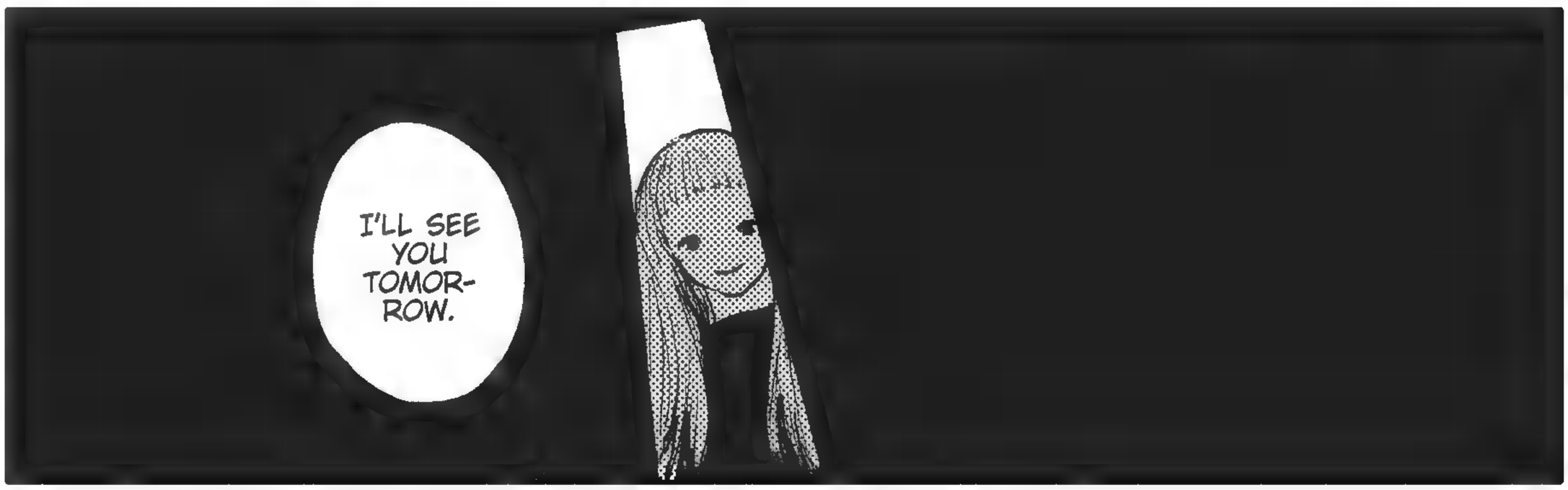
OKAY...?

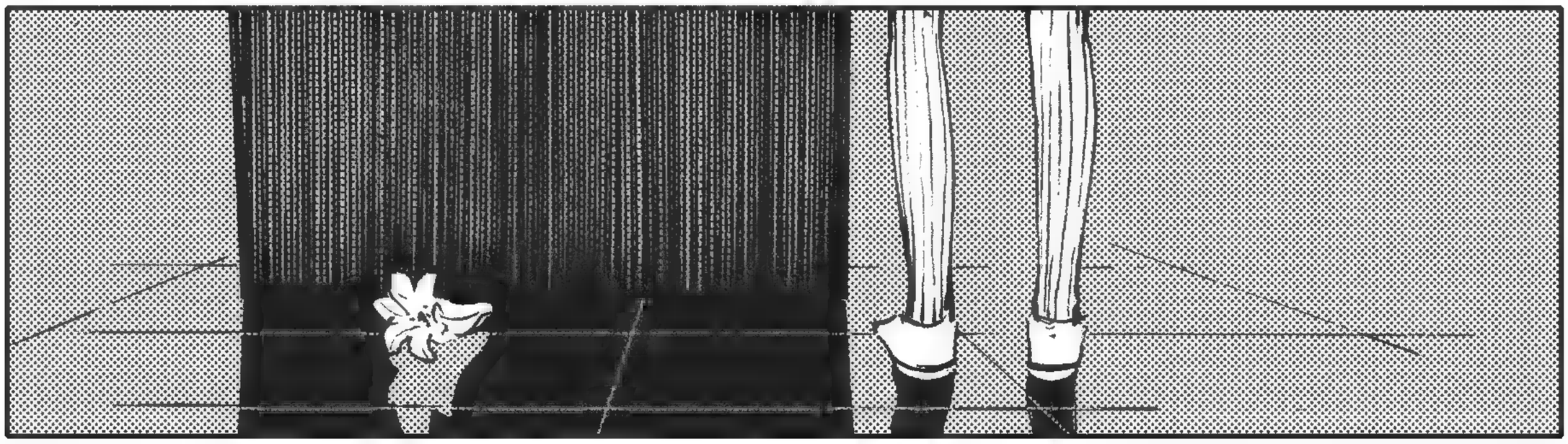
OF COURSE.

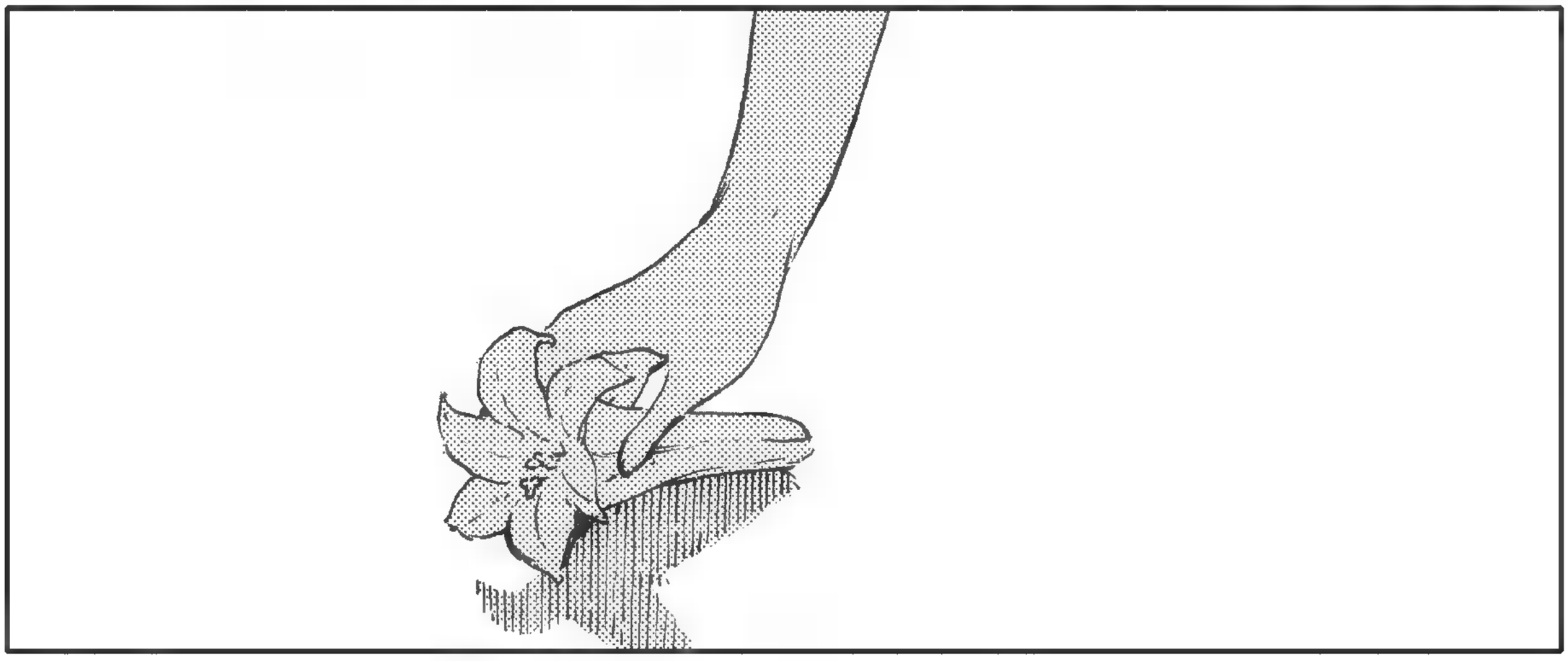
MIGHT WE DANCE AGAIN TOMORROW EVENING?

IT'S NEARLY MORNING.

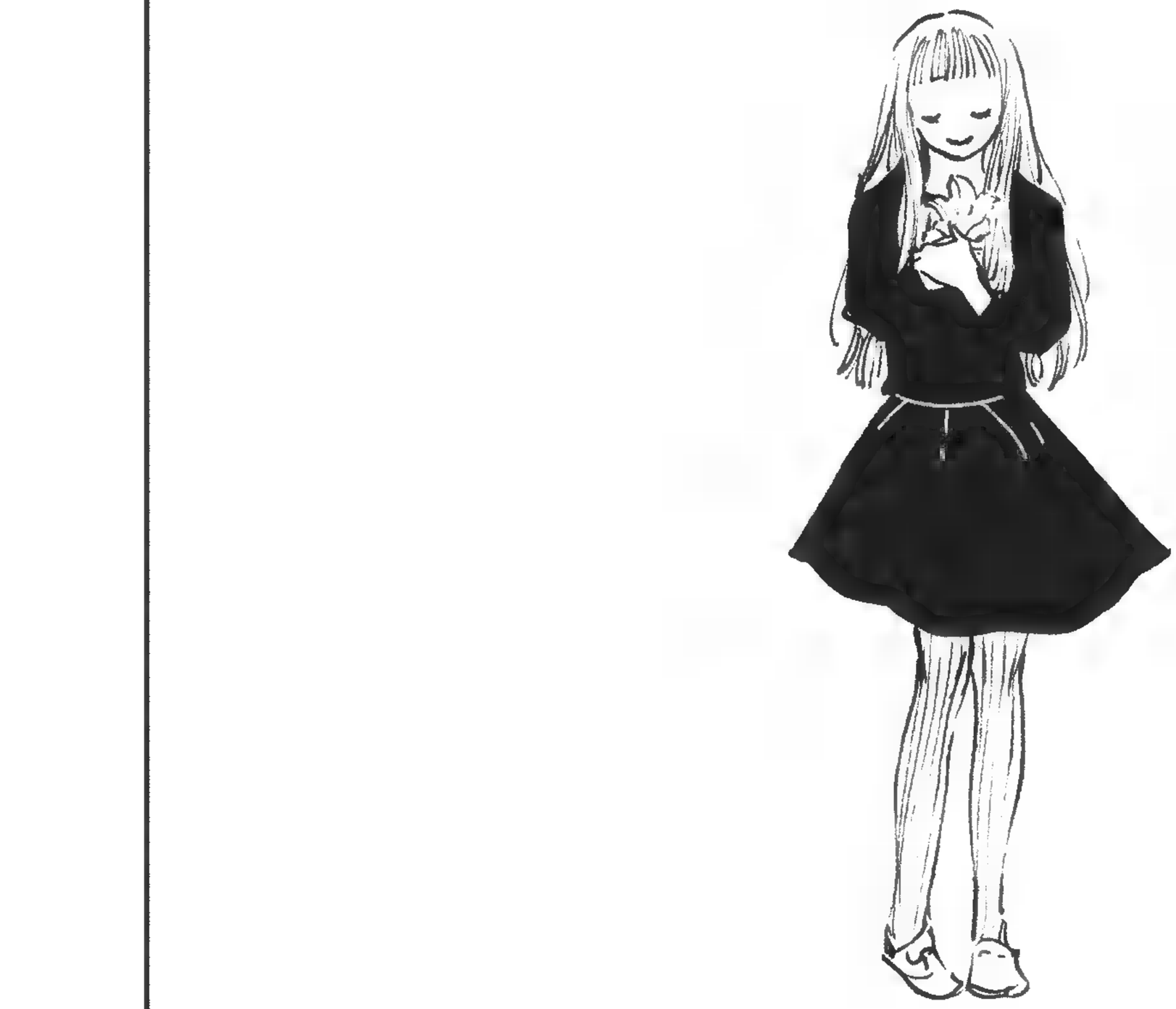

IN THAT CASE...

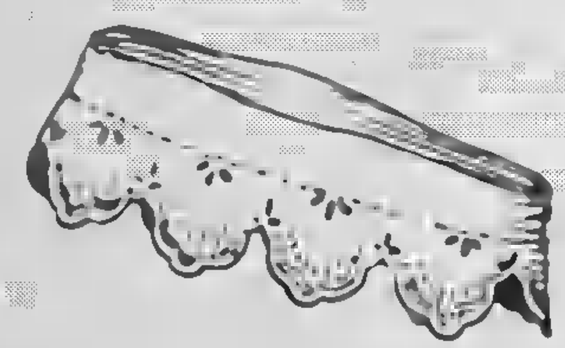

I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.





LET'S DANCE AGAIN.





Love on the Other Side

A Nagabe Short Story Collection

Love on the Other Side

A Nagabe Short Story Collection


THIS ALL HAPPENED IN A KINGDOM FAR, FAR AWAY.
THEY WERE HOME TO COUNTLESS DOZENS OF MY KIND, THEIR MANES THE COLOR OF THE SUN.
GOLDEN PLAINS STRETCHED TO THE HORIZON, FAR VASTER THAN ANY FOUND HERE.
I WAS...
THE KING OF THIS LAND WAS THE MOST POWERFUL AND MOST SPECIAL OF ALL.
THAT KING.

The White King



ALTHOUGH HE IS, OF COURSE, FAR WEAKER THAN I.

EVENTUALLY I LEFT MY KINGDOM IN MY BROTHER'S CARE...

NOT AT ALL. MANY ACCOMPANIED ME, AND ARE INFILTRATING THIS PLACE AS WE SPEAK.

YOU LEFT EVERYBODY BEHIND TO COME HERE?

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF CREATURES IN THIS NEW KINGDOM, AFTER ALL.

EACH AND EVERY ONE IS A HANDPICKED ELITE MEMBER OF MY PRIDE.

I POSITIONED MY PEOPLE TO OBSERVE FROM AFAR.

THEY ARE STATIONED JUST A LITTLE DOWN THE WAY.

ARE MY MINIONS AS WELL.

REALLY?

WHAT'S MORE, THOSE HUMANS WHO OFTEN COME IN HERE...

TWICE A DAY THEY BRING ME...

I HAD THEM BUILD THIS DEN.

WOW.

SHANKS OF DEER TO EAT.

THEIR SERVICE FREES ME FROM MENIAL TASKS, AS IS ONLY RIGHT.

IF THEY *DID* DARE...

THEY'RE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY DEFIED ME.

HUMANS ARE FRAIL AND WEAK, AFTER ALL.

THEY WOULD SOON SHARE THIS FATE.

I WOULDN'T TASTE GOOD AT ALL!

UM!

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY!

PERHAPS JUST A BITE.

YOU LOOK PARTICU-LARLY TASTY.

I DO WONDER HOW HUMANS TASTE.

SLURP

WAH!

WERE YOU TASTING ME?

NO, I WAS GROOMING YOU.

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH MEAT ON YOUR BONES.

OH, RELAX. I WON'T EAT YOU.

WHITE IS THE COLOR OF KINGS.

YOUR FUR IS THE SAME SPECIAL COLOR AS MINE.

YES, INDEED.

REALLY?

THERE.

HERE. I WILL CLEAN YOU ALL OVER!

IT'S ABOUT THE TIME WHEN I...

OOH, WHAT IS IT?

WHY DON'T I TELL YOU A DIFFERENT STORY TONIGHT?

HRM.

HEY, LOOK! THE ALBINO'S DRAWING PICTURES NOW!

YOINK

EW, THAT STINKS!

G- GIVE IT BACK!

UM!

FREAK.

STOMP

IT'LL GIVE ME HIS ALBINO COOTIES!

NO WAY! I'LL CATCH HIS COOTIES!

HERE! CATCH!

IF YOU'RE HERE, SAY SOMETHING.

BAM BAM BAM

AND YOU LOST YOUR PAJAMAS SOMEWHERE. AGAIN.

WHAT, DO YOU THINK SCHOOL IS FREE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS SUPPORTING YOU, YOUNG MAN?

LATE AGAIN THIS MORNING, WERE YOU?

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?

UGH.

YOU'RE PALE AND CREEPY AS A GHOST AS IT IS.

WHEN YOU COME HOME, SPEAK UP!

Paradise

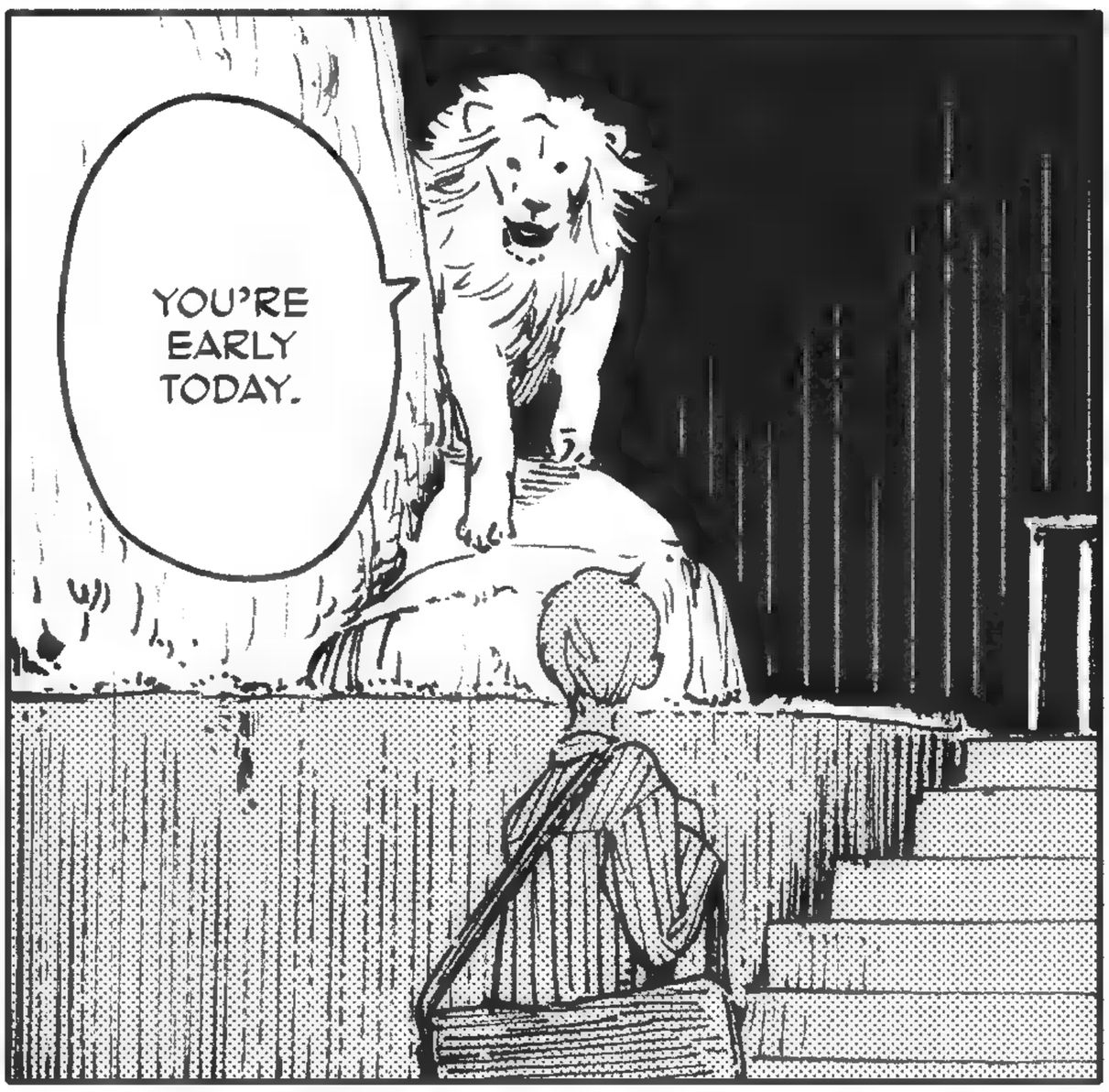
ZOO

ENTRANCE

KREE


HERE ALREADY, ARE YOU?
AH!


AH, IS THAT SO?
I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BADLY, YOUR MAJESTY.


YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.


JUST A SEC.


OH.
NNN?


HN?

YES.

MUCH BETTER.

THERE.

MY AUNT WOULD GET MAD IF SHE FOUND OUT.

I GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO SCENT-MARK YOU EVERY VISIT.

WHY MUST YOU WASH IT SO OFTEN, THOUGH?

HRM.

PECULIAR CREATURES, HUMANS.

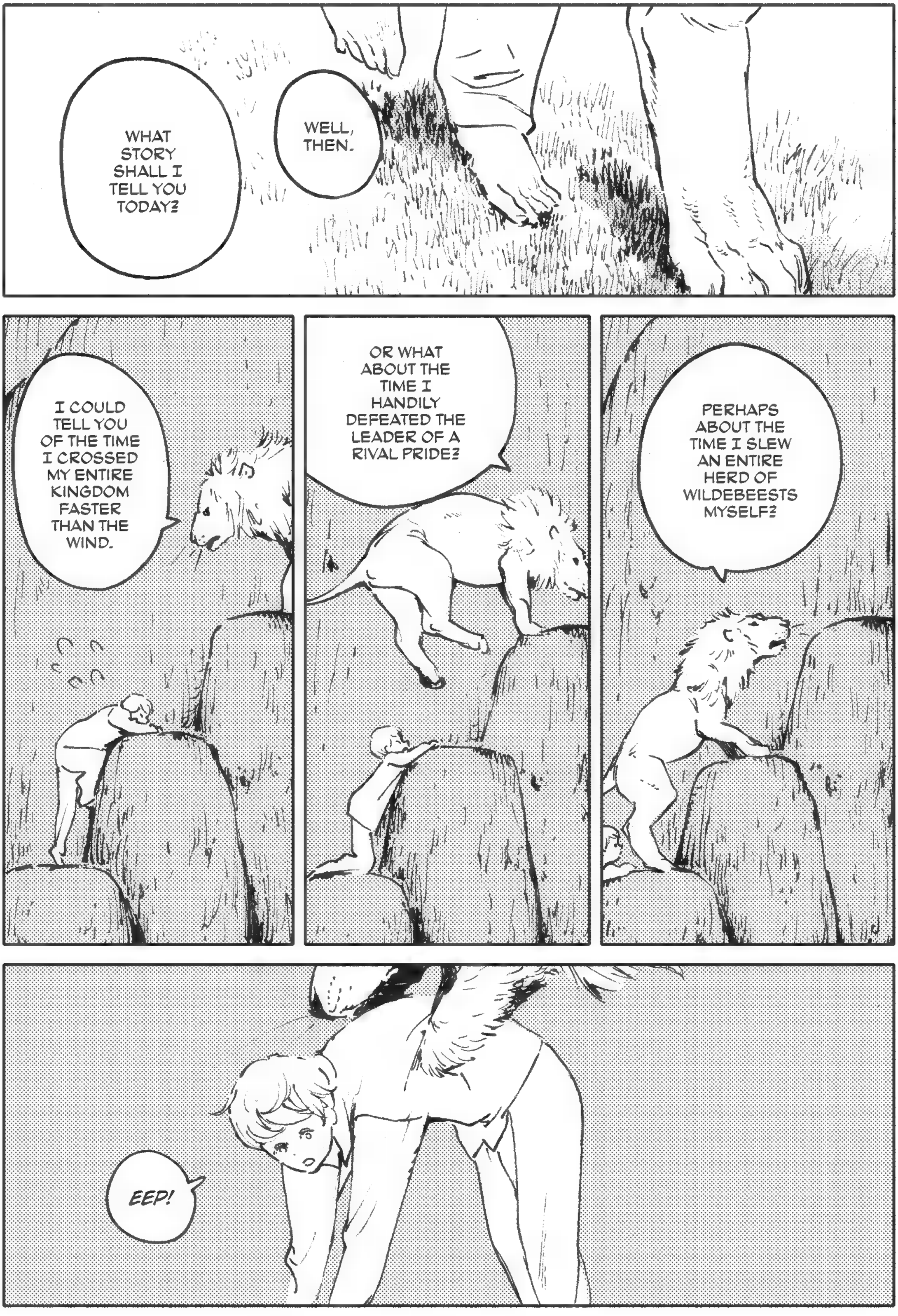
YEAH, BUT... DON'T.

BUT YOU'VE SAID BEFORE THAT YOU GREATLY DISLIKE HER.

I'LL GO EAT HER, THEN.

NO!

AH, SO IT IS THIS "AUNT" WHO IS THE PROBLEM?


WHAT STORY SHALL I TELL YOU TODAY?
WELL, THEN.
I COULD TELL YOU OF THE TIME I CROSSED MY ENTIRE KINGDOM FASTER THAN THE WIND.
OR WHAT ABOUT THE TIME I HANDILY DEFEATED THE LEADER OF A RIVAL PRIDE?
PERHAPS ABOUT THE TIME I SLEW AN ENTIRE HERD OF WILDEBEESTS MYSELF?
EEP!

I'M SORRY.

HMPH. YOU ARE SUCH A PAWFUL.

NOW THEN, WHAT STORY DO YOU WANT TO HEAR?

YOUR MAJESTY?


DO YOU LOVE ME?
WHAT IS "LOVE"?

HMPH. IT ISN'T THAT I DON'T **KNOW.** IT'S THAT IT'S UNNEC-ESSARY.

UNLIKE HUMANS, WE LIONS SEE NO NEED TO ASSIGN NAMES TO EVERY LITTLE THING.

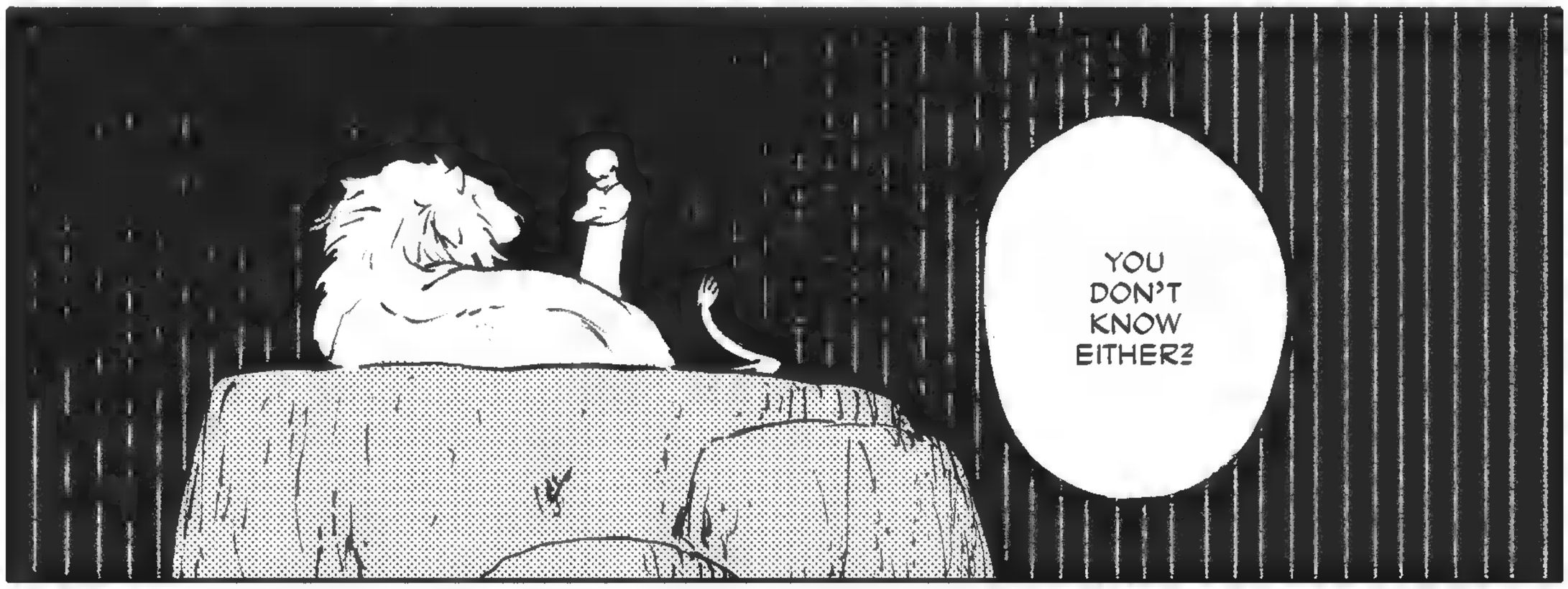
GNAW

HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT LOVE?

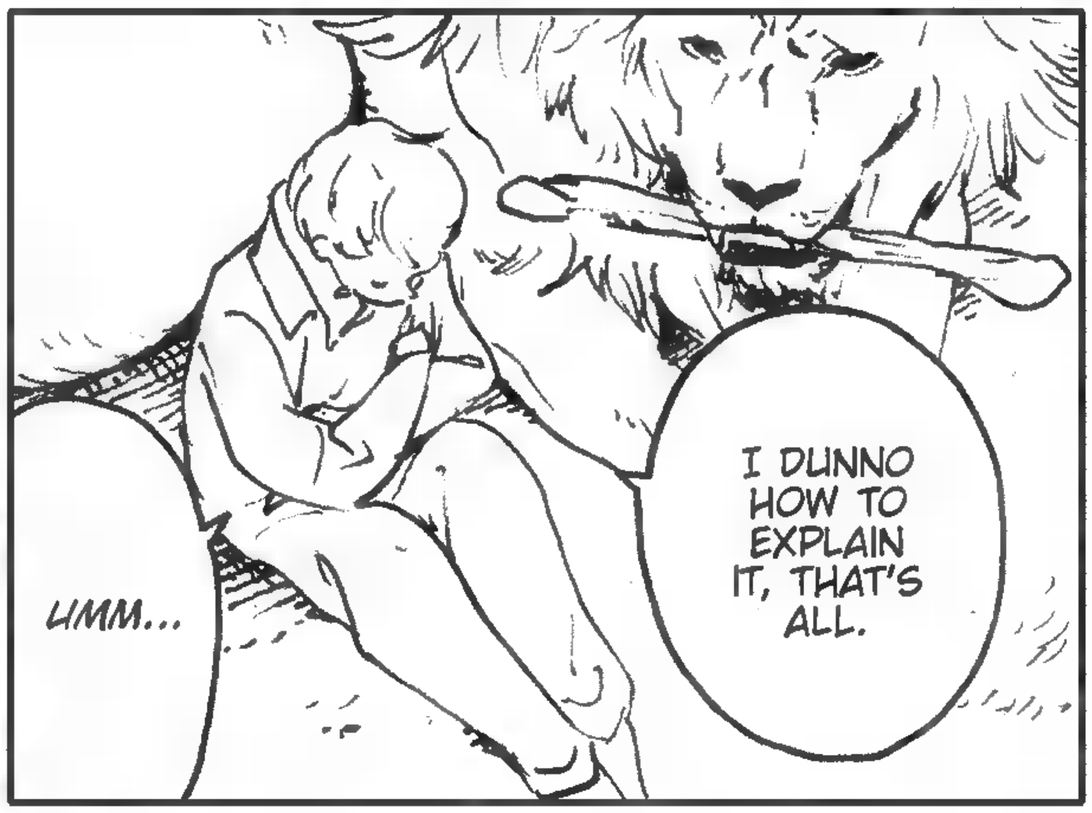
WELL, LOVE IS... UM... IT'S...

SO.

WHAT IS "LOVE"?


YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER?


NO, IT DOESN'T.
DOES IT TASTE GOOD?
IT'S NOT FOOD.


UMM...
I DUNNO HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, THAT'S ALL.


I THINK IT'S SOMETHING YOU JUST... ARE?
IT'S A THING YOU BECOME?


ER...
NO. IT'S SOMETHING WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
YOU CAN'T DO IT ON YOUR OWN?


OH? LIKE GROOMING OR SHARPENING YOUR CLAWS?
I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING YOU DO?

LIKE BEING MATES?

IT'S HOW ONE MAKES YOUNG.

WHAT'S A "COP-YOOLATE"?

MATES?

YES. IT'S WHEN YOU CHOOSE ANOTHER TO COPULATE WITH.

SO YOU... K-KISS? AND STUFF...?

SO...

WHAT'S A "PERV"?

NOTHING! NEVER MIND!

DON'T BE A PERV, YOUR MAJESTY.

KISS?

WHAT IS "KISS"?

BUT WHAT IS IT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

YOU JUST ARE!

TELL ME!

NOTHING! I DON'T KNOW!

COME NOW. EXPLAIN.

DO YOU "LOVE" ME?

LET ME ASK THIS, THEN.

Oof!

YEAH, I DO.

UM, I GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE...

YEAH.

SO I AM THIS "LOVE" THING TO YOU?

IS THAT SO?

YOU'RE WAY, WAY STRONGER THAN ME.

YOU'RE REALLY COOL AND YOU CAN DO SO MANY THINGS! THAT'S WHY.

BUT IT SEEMS THIS "LOVE" THING COMES FROM POWER.

I THINK I UNDER-STAND.

I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDER-STAND...

YOU SEE, IT WAS WHEN I...

OOH! WHAT HAP-PENED?

OKAY.

THEN LET ME TELL YOU A STORY OF MY TRUE STRENGTH!

WHAT IS THAT?

THESE YELLOW HORNS HERE.

THIS.

WHAT IS WHAT?

IS IT NECES-SARY?

YEAH. ABSO-LUTELY NECES-SARY.

YEAH. KINGS WEAR THEM.

"CROWN" ?

OH, THAT'S A CROWN.

I'LL MAKE THE VERY BEST ONE FOR YOU.

OKAY.

THAT PLEASES ME. DO SO.

I KNOW! I'LL MAKE A CROWN FOR YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

I'M SO EXCITED FOR TONIGHT!

CLEANING DONE?

YEP. JUST FINISHED UP.

IT'S A PAIN IN THE REAR, I'LL TELL YOU THAT.

HEADED OUT?

YEAH.

IT'S GOT SOME ATTITUDE FOR A LOUSY REJECT LION.

DRIVES ME NUTS.

YEAH, THEN IT CHASES YOU ALL OVER.

NOPE. EVEN WHEN I'M JUST IN THERE TO CLEAN, IT ACTS LIKE I'M INVADING ITS TURF.

THAT LION, RIGHT? IT DOESN'T LIKE ANYONE, DOES IT?

WHITE LIONS ARE RARE, AFTER ALL.

GUESS THAT ONE BRINGS IN TONS OF MONEY FOR THE ZOO.

BA-TAN

AH, RIGHT.

THAT RUMOR ABOUT THE POACHING ...?

THE WEAKER THEY ARE, THE BIGGER THEIR ATTITUDE.

IT DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH OUR LIONS, EITHER, SO IT'S GOT ITS OWN ENCLOSURE.

YOU SAID IT.

WHITE STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB IN THE WILD, SO IT COULDN'T HUNT. NO PRIDE WOULD ACCEPT IT.

I HEARD THEY FOUND IT HALF-DEAD OUT ON THE SAVANNAH.

HA HA!

YEAH, THE KIDS LOVE THAT STUFF.

MAKING UP THAT STORY ABOUT IT BEING THE KING OF ALL LIONS.

SPENDING A TON OF MONEY ON THAT SEPARATE ENCLOSURE, THEN...

THE BOSS SURE FANCIED IT UP, THOUGH.

WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTH-ING.

KLUNK

SEE YOU.

YEAH. SEE YOU LATER.

I WISH HE'D PUT THAT MUCH EFFORT INTO RAISING OUR SALARIES.

GUESS I IMAGINED IT.

LIAR.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN STRONG.

YOU DIDN'T RULE A KINGDOM.

YOU'RE NO KING.

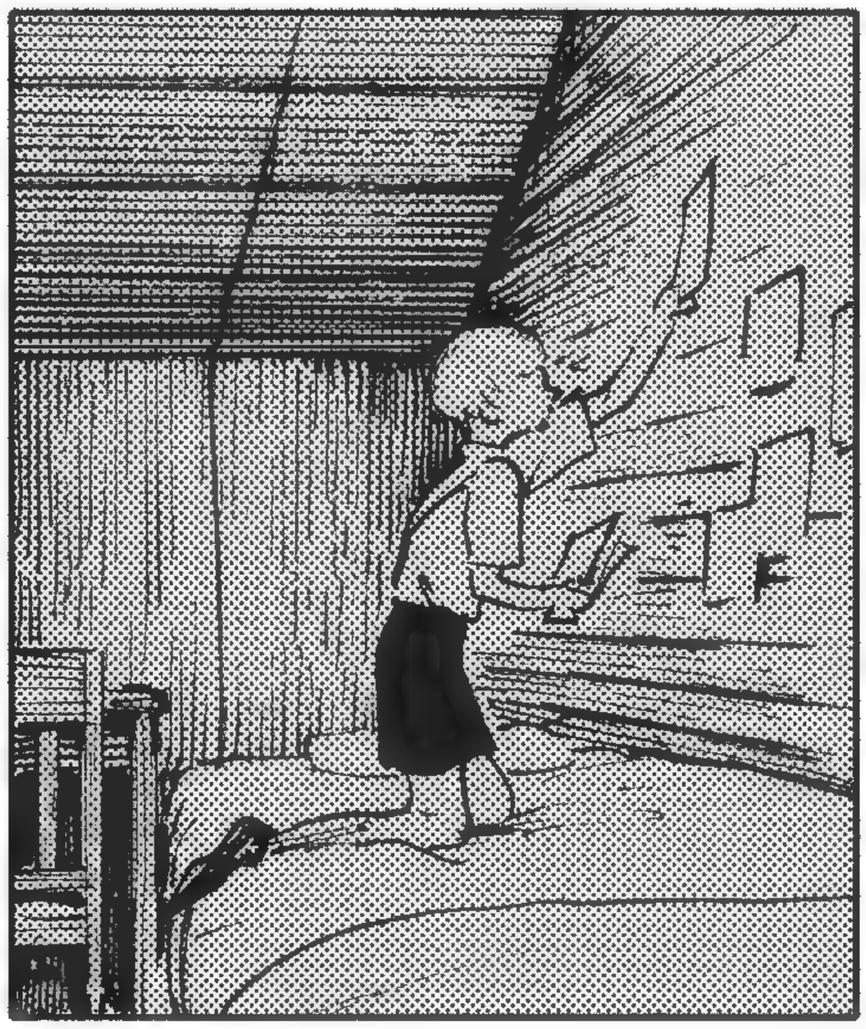
THEY SAID YOU'RE JUST SOME BORING LION.

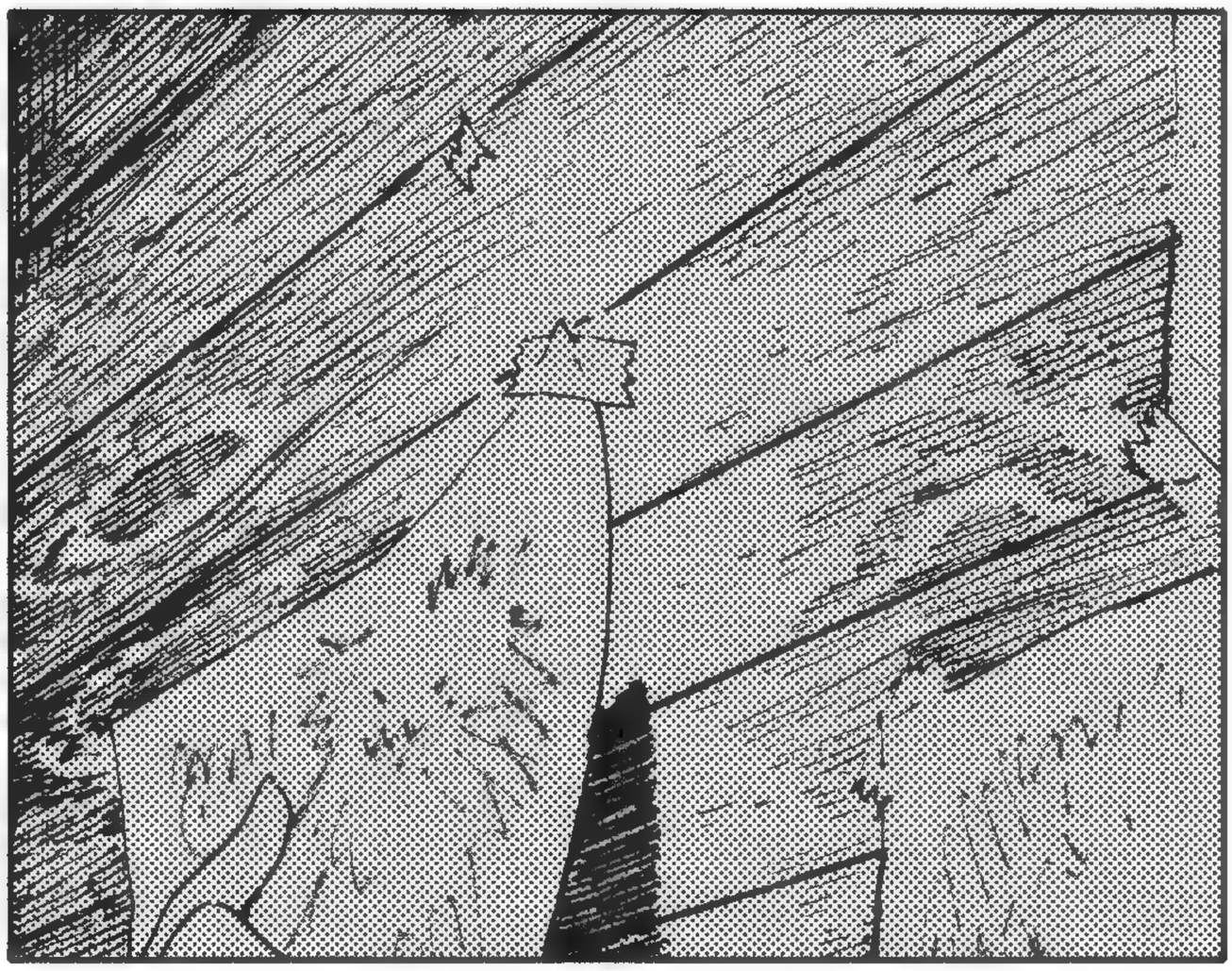
JUST LIKE EVERY-BODY ELSE?

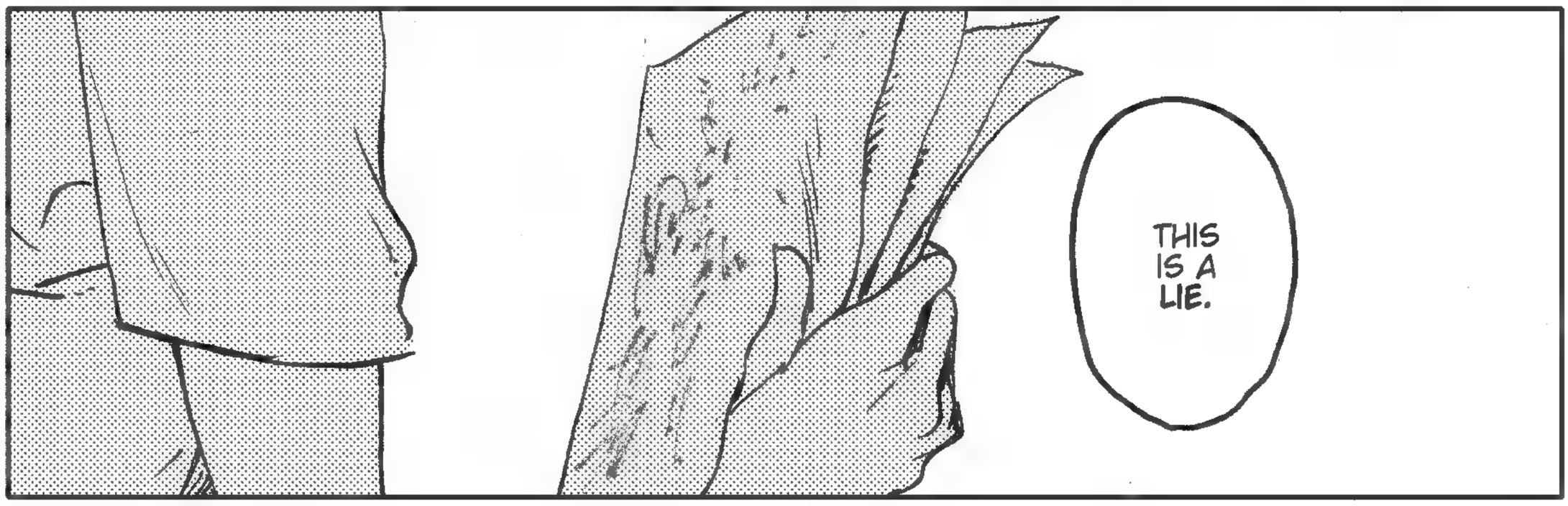
WERE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME, TOO?

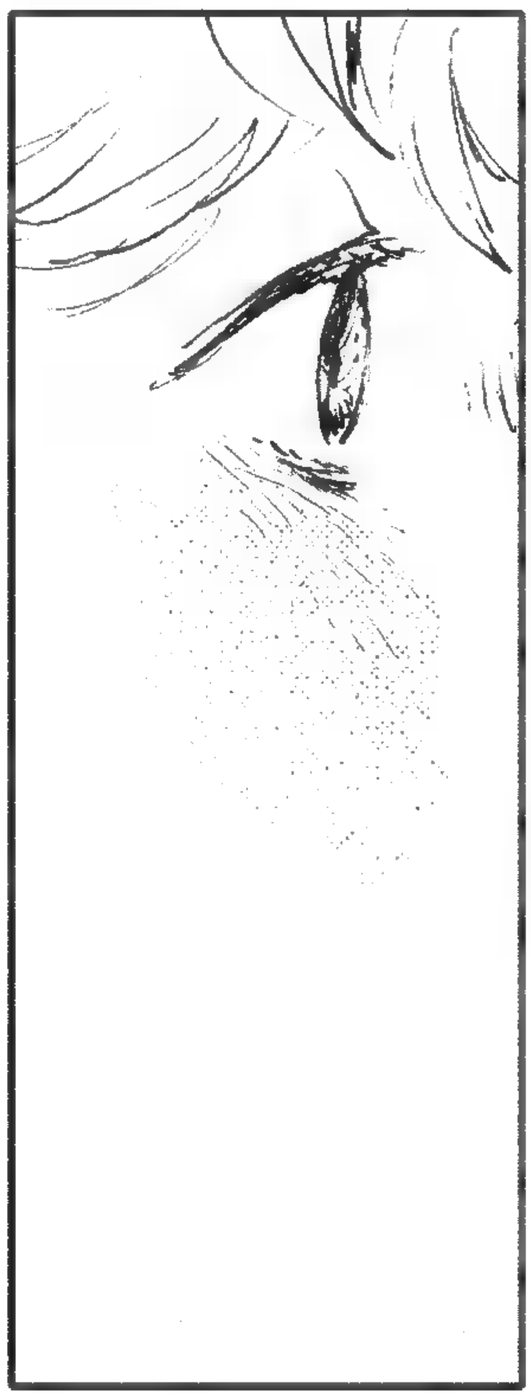
WHY'D YOU LIE TO ME LIKE THAT?

WHY?



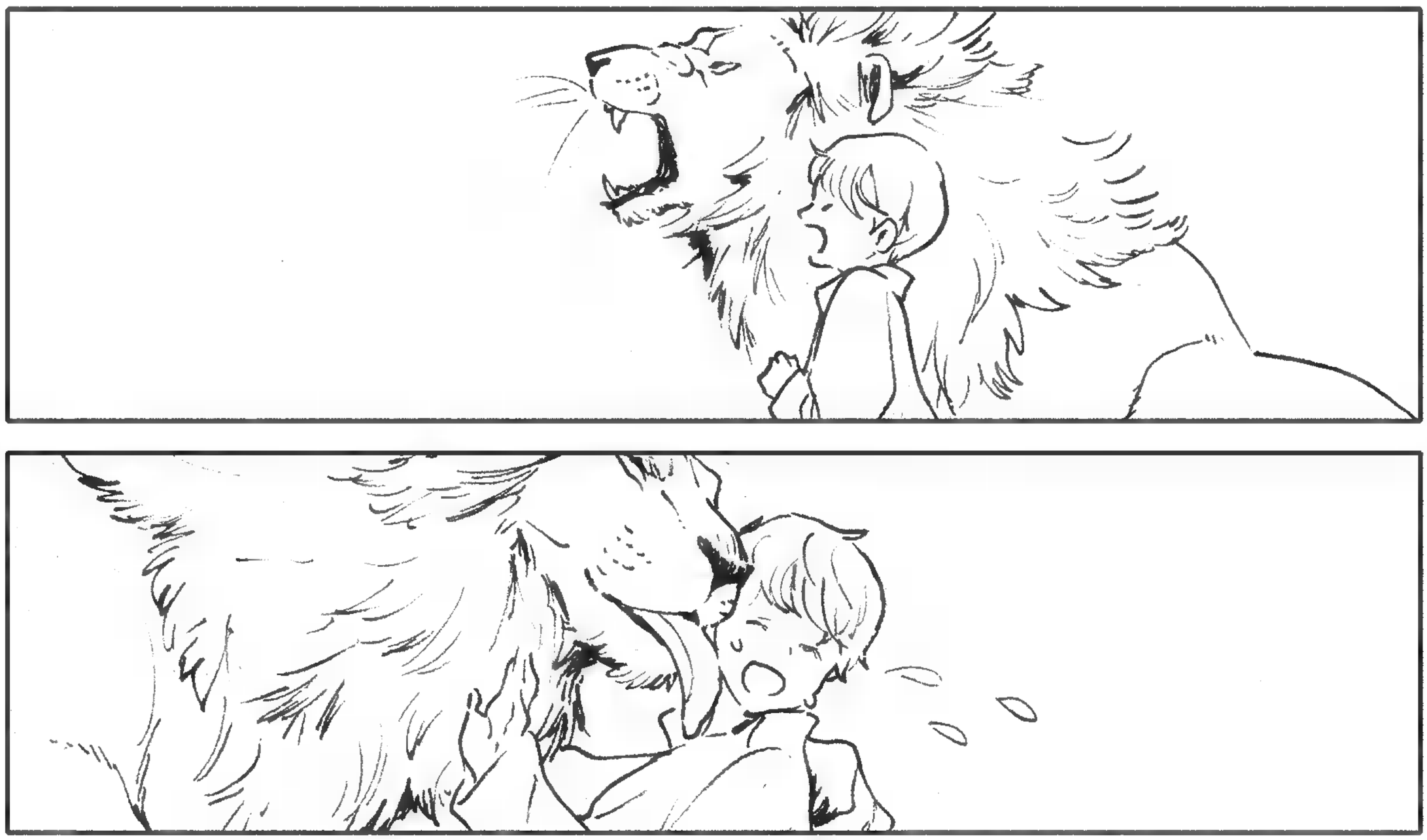



THIS IS A LIE.

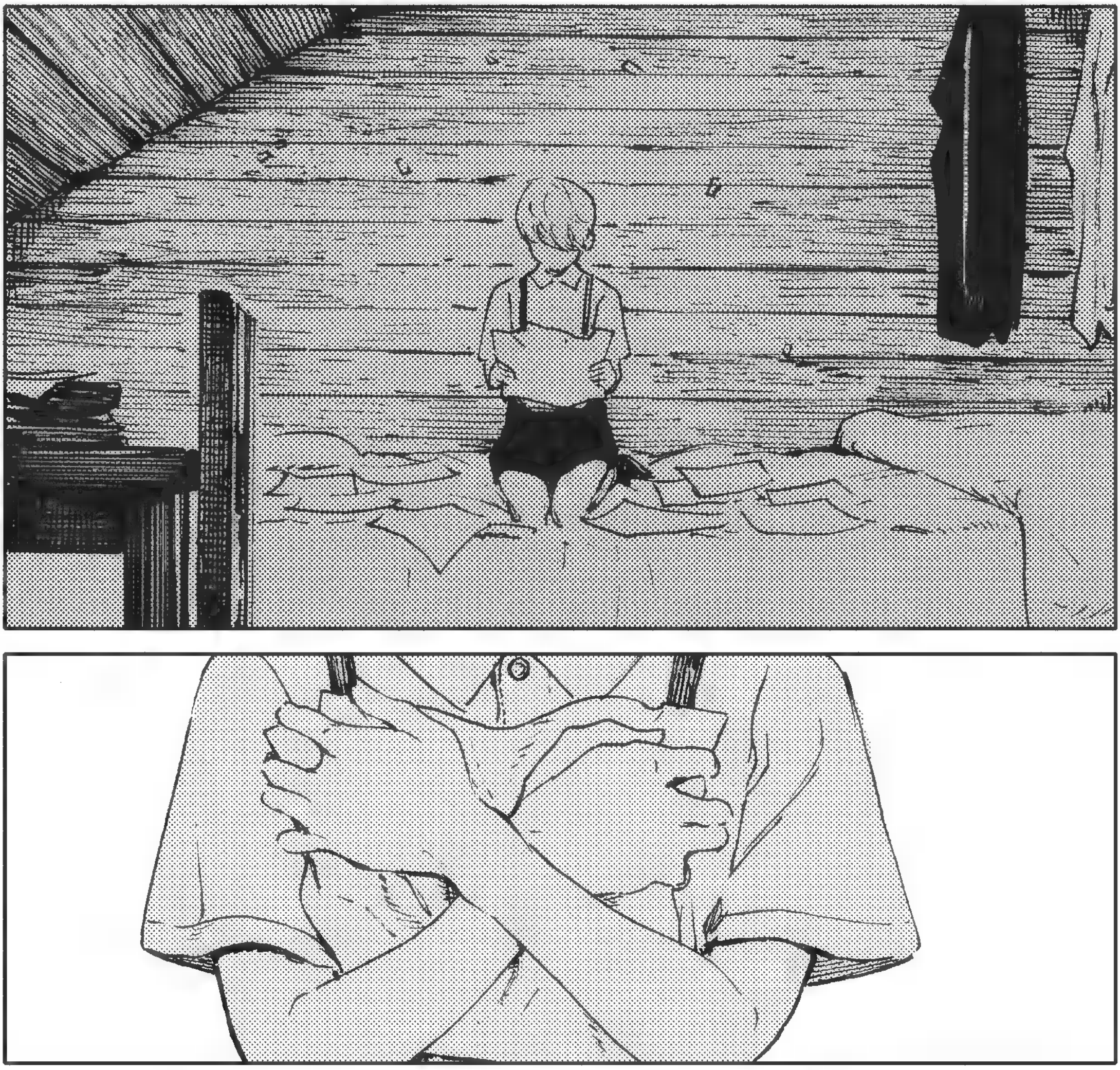



THEY'RE ALL LIES!


SO'S THIS.
THAT ONE, TOO.
AND THIS.








N-
NO.
I
DON'T
WANT...!

KREE

HUFF!

HUFF!

HUFF!

HUFF!

UM...

YOUR MAJESTY ...?

ARE--

WHAT THE HELL

HELLO ?

YOUR MAJESTY ?

JUMP

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!

IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I FEEL TERRIBLE!

NO, WORSE! I'VE WAITED FAR, *FAR* LONGER THAN THAT!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST FIVE DAYS! NO, SEVEN...!

IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE YOU CAME! WHY HAVE YOU NEGLECTED ME?!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I WAITED FOR YOU?!

SOME-THING WITHIN ME WENT MAD!

WHEN YOU STOPPED COMING TO SEE ME...

NO!

I'M SORRY...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU ANGRY--!

I WAS FAMISHED, BUT COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO EAT!

WHEN I TRIED TO GROOM, IT ALWAYS WENT POORLY!

EVEN LYING IN THE SUN, I SHIVERED WITH COLD!

I WASN'T HURT OR BLEEDING, YET I **ACHED** ALL OVER!

EVEN AFTER COUGHING UP A HAIRBALL, IT STILL FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS STUCK IN MY CHEST!

TELL ME! NOW!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?!




I SAID STOP IT, SO STOP!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY.
HMM?
STOP IT.



UGH!

HNGHK!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU TASTED SO TERRIBLE.

BLEH! YUCK!

WHY IS WATER COMING OUT OF YOUR EYES?

AGAIN.

WHY?

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

WHY?

MY HEART HURTS AS IF SOMETHING IS GNAWING ON IT.

I HURT A LOT, TOO.

THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ME.

YOUR MAJESTY.

MY CHEST SQUEEZED SO TIGHT IT HURT.

WHEN WE WERE APART...

I FELT REALLY, REALLY SAD.

IT WAS JUST LIKE THAT.

YES.

IT WAS LIKE THAT FOR YOU, TOO, WASN'T IT?

DON'T GO ANY-WHERE. STAY WITH ME.

BUT NOW...

THAT'S AN ORDER. I WON'T TOLERATE DEFIANCE, NOT EVEN FROM YOU.

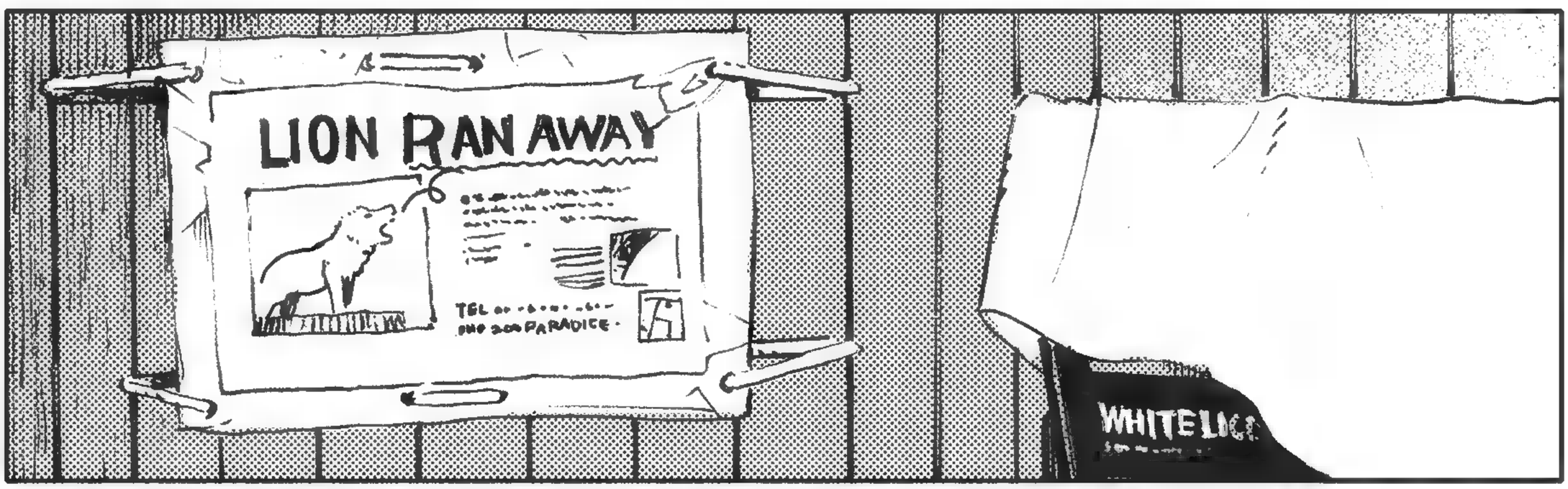
I DON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE.

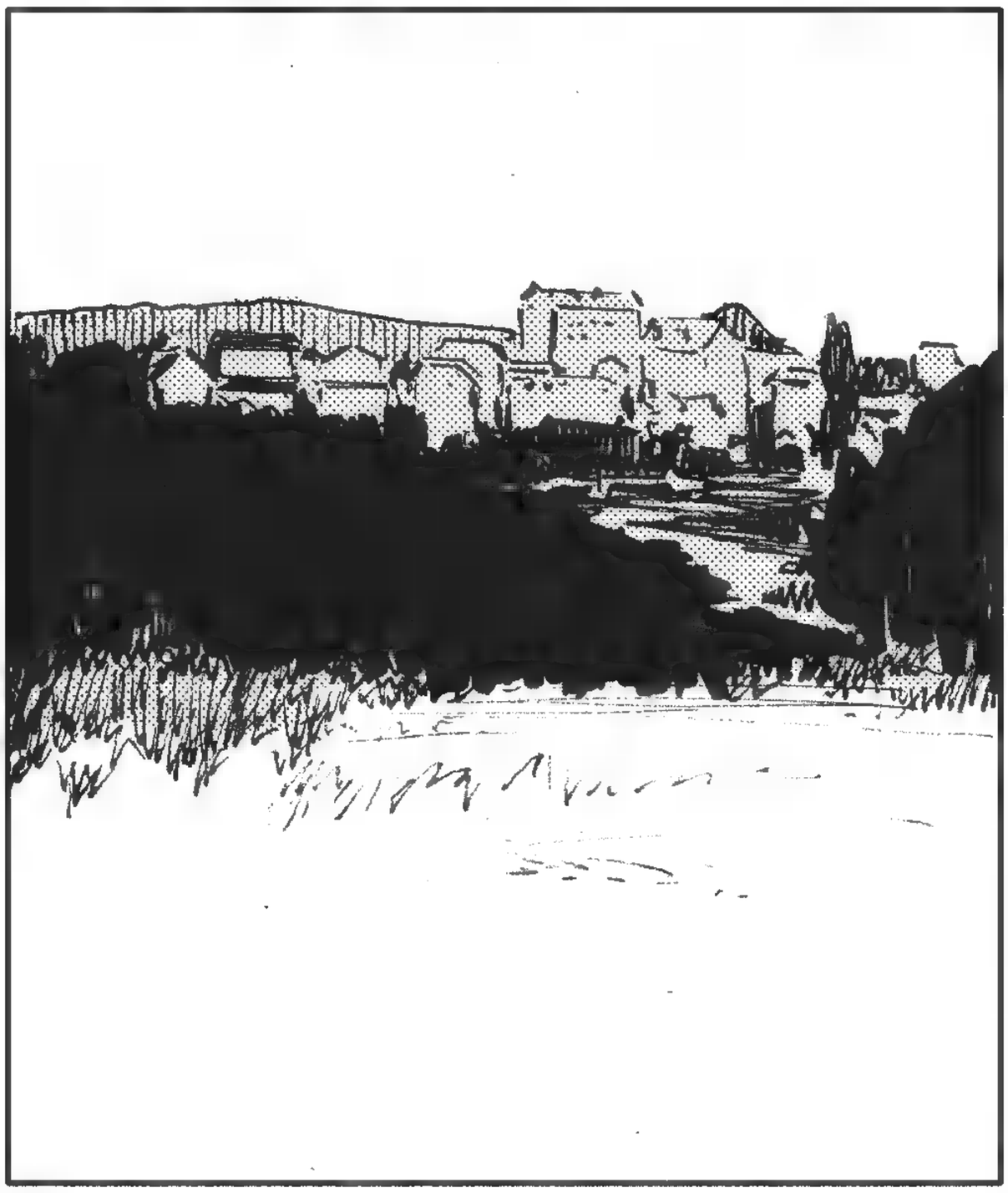
YEAH.

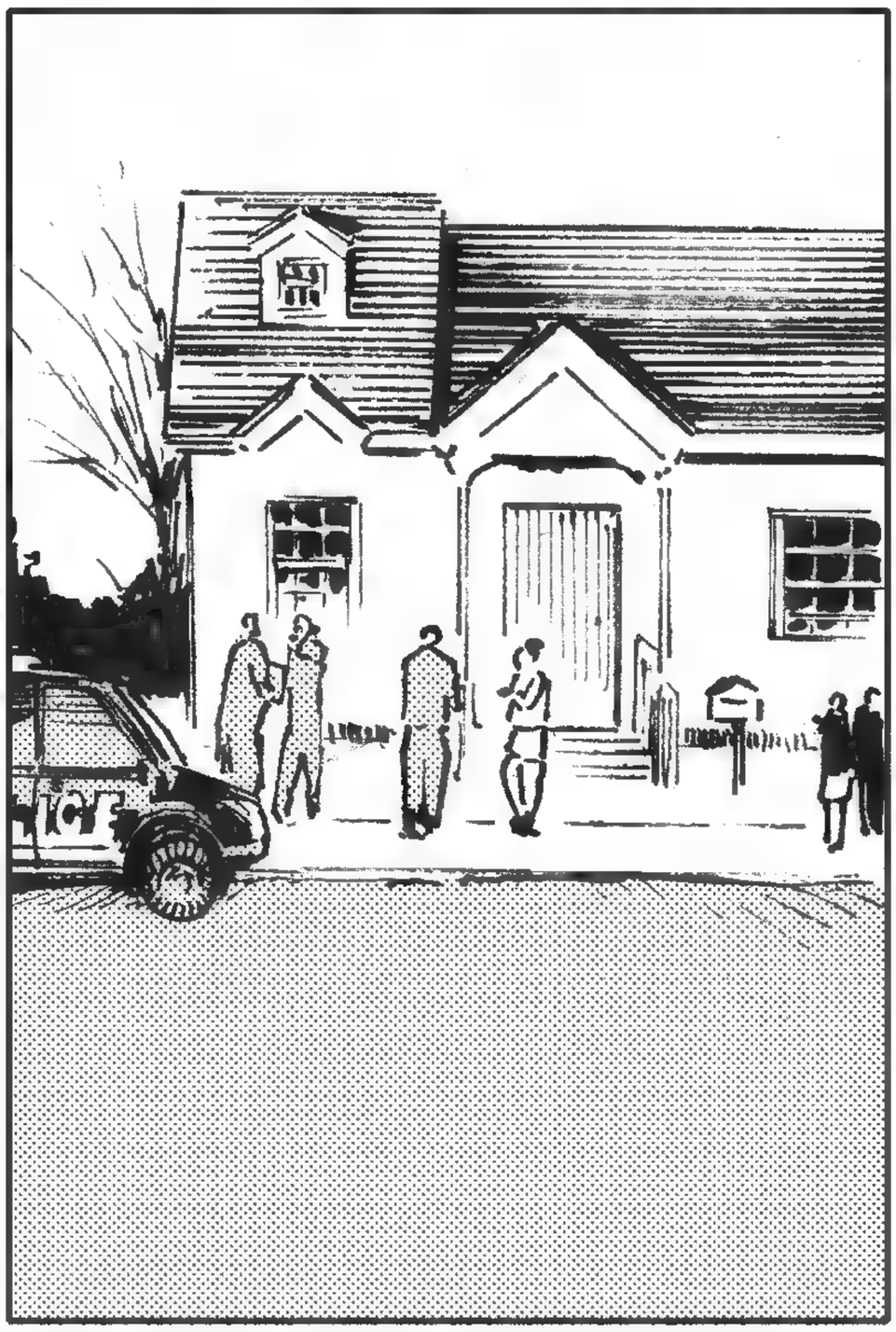
I NEVER WANT TO FEEL THAT WAY AGAIN.

I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU FOREVER, TOO.

SAME HERE.

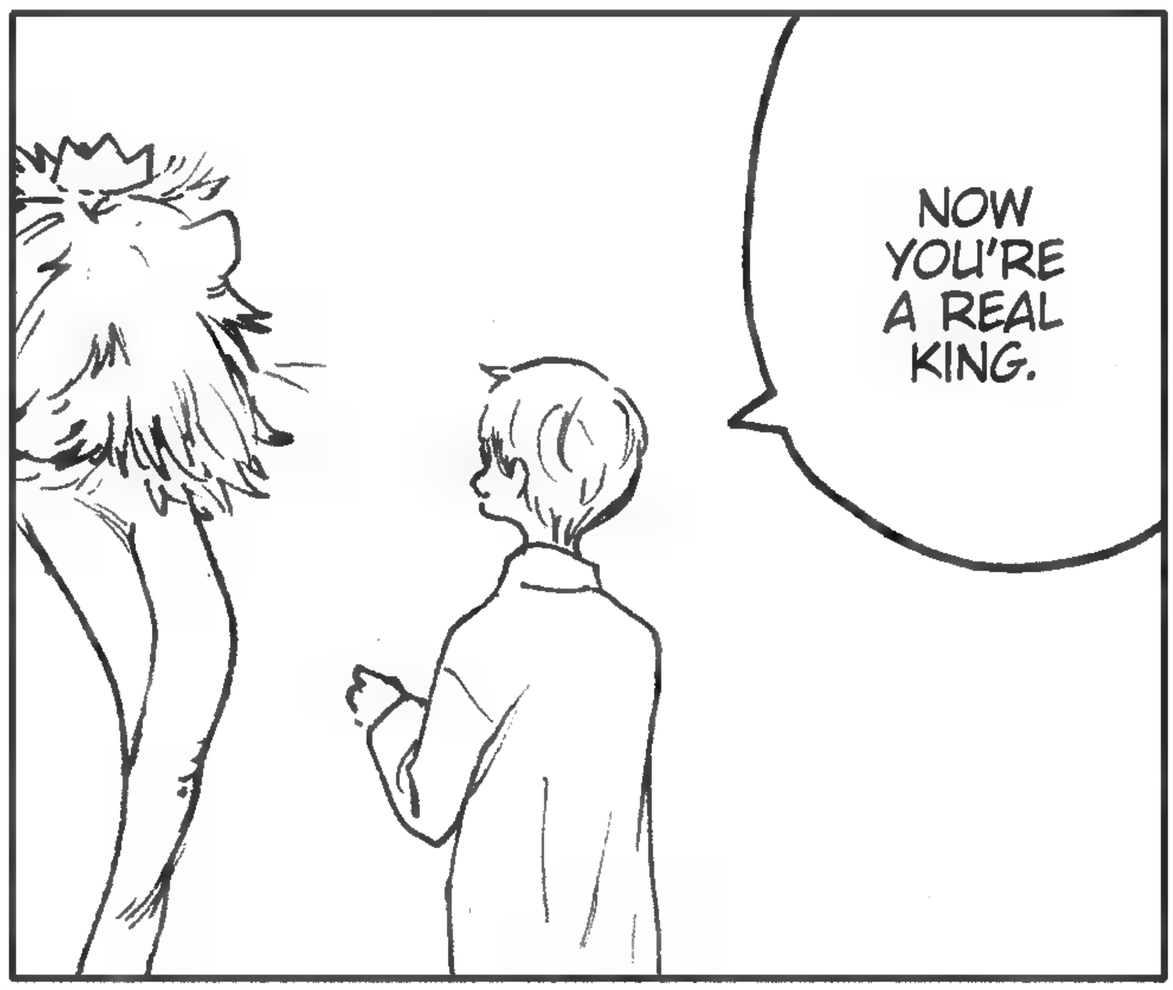






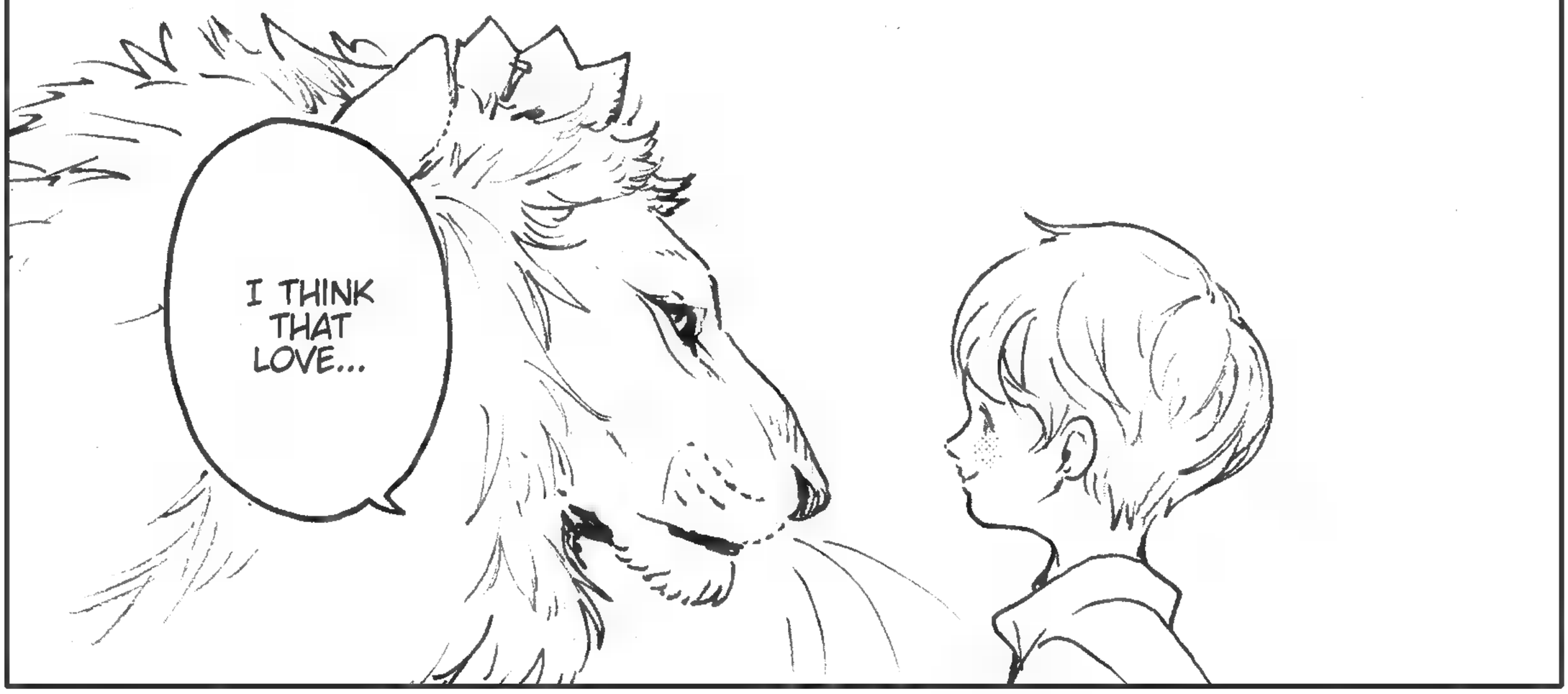

HERE.

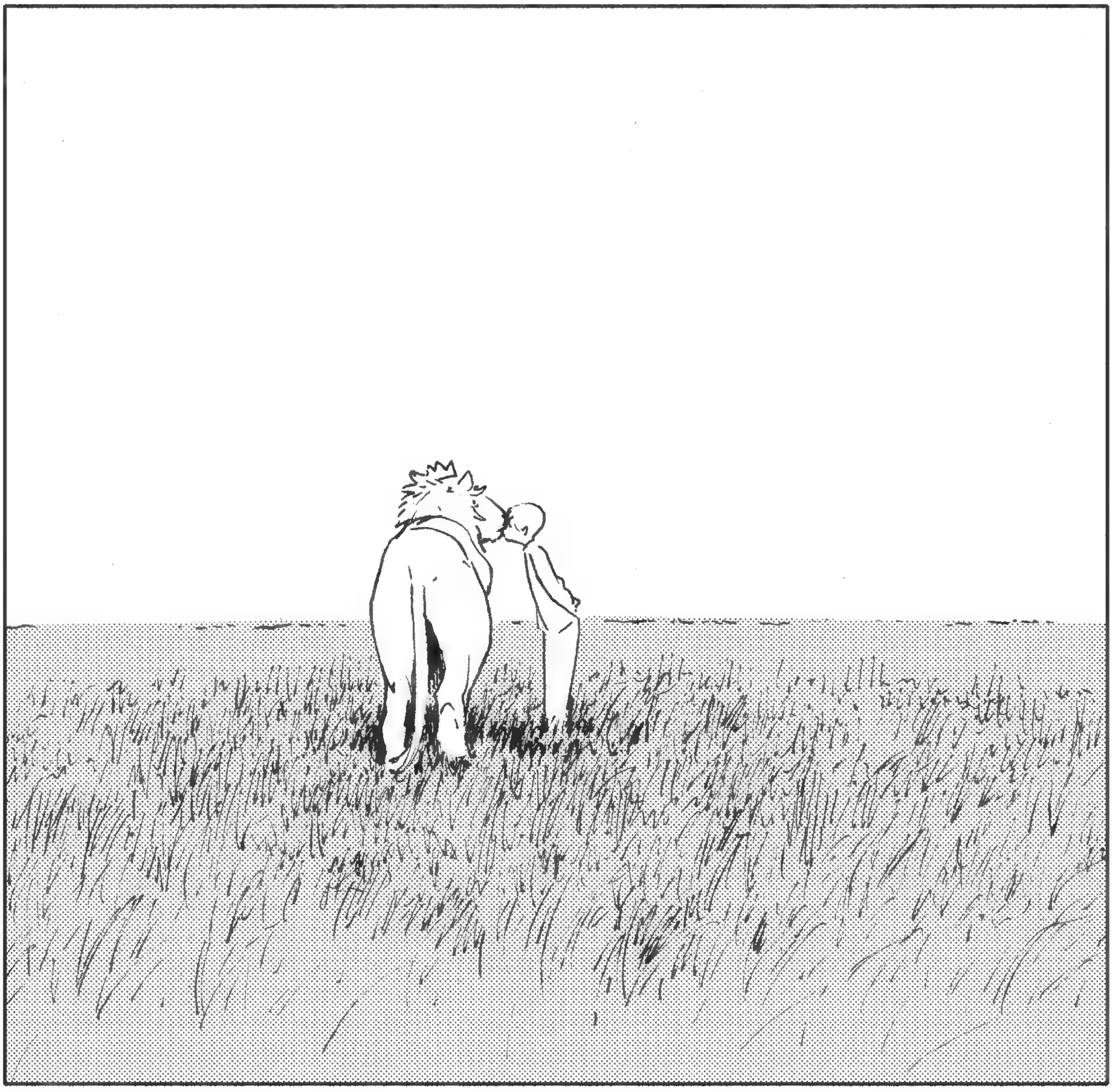

YEAH. IT LOOKS PERFECT ON YOU.
RURR.


NOW YOU'RE A REAL KING.


HEY, YOUR MAJESTY?


IT ISN'T BECAUSE YOU'RE POWERFUL.
ALTHOUGH, I DO LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.
I THINK I KNOW WHAT "LOVE" IS, NOW.


I THINK THAT LOVE...



IS THAT.

HEH HEH!

LICK

KISSING MAKES BABIES.

WHAT, DON'T YOU KNOW?

NOW WE'RE GONNA HAVE BABIES.

YOU REALLY ARE A PERV.

YOUR MAJESTY...! CUT IT OUT!

WAH!

HEE HEE.

KINGS OF A KINGDOM FOR JUST THE TWO OF US.

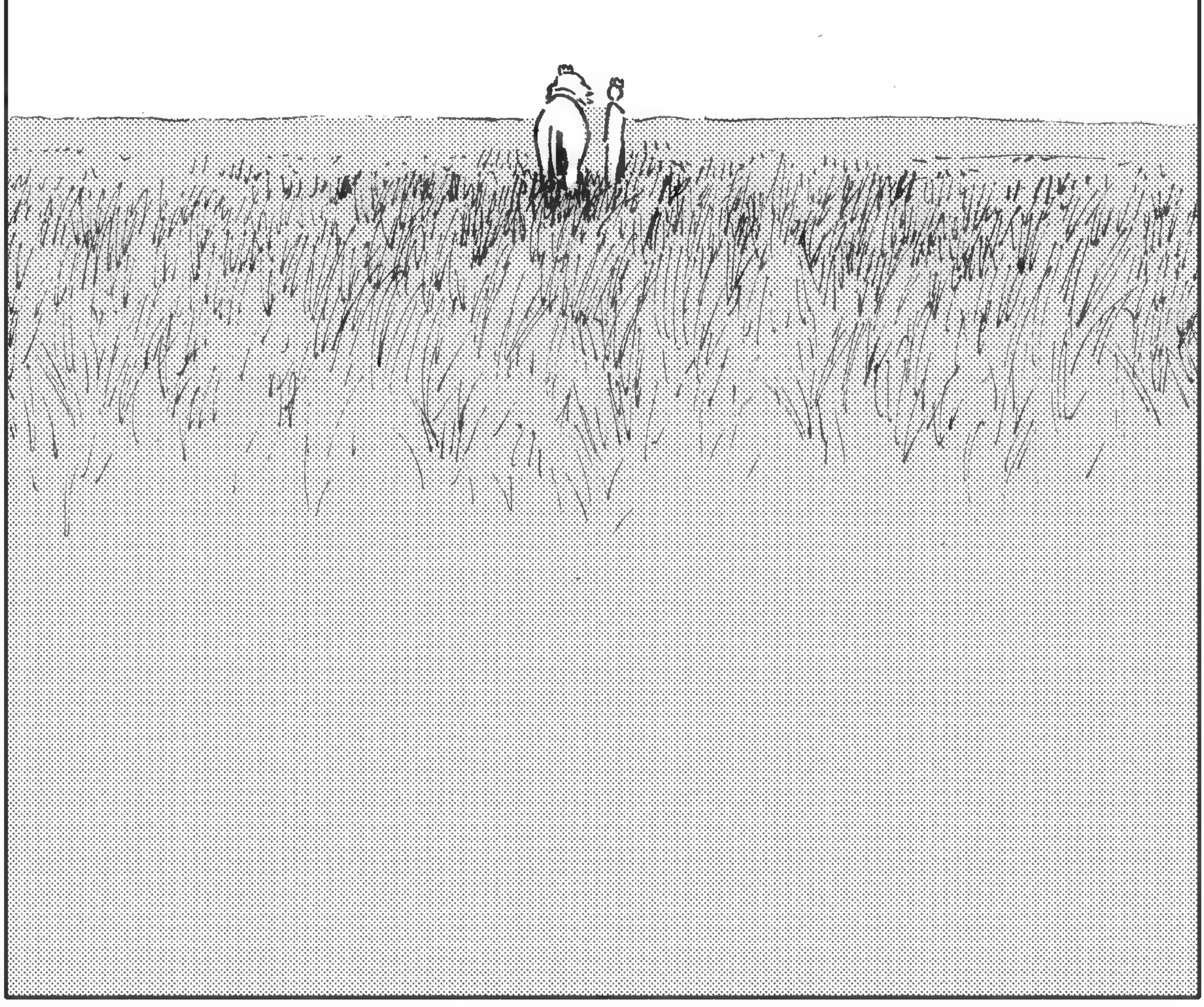
C'MON, LET'S GO TO YOUR REAL HOME.

THEN WE CAN **BOTH** BE KINGS!

HEY... CAN I BE A KING, TOO?

GRAAR!

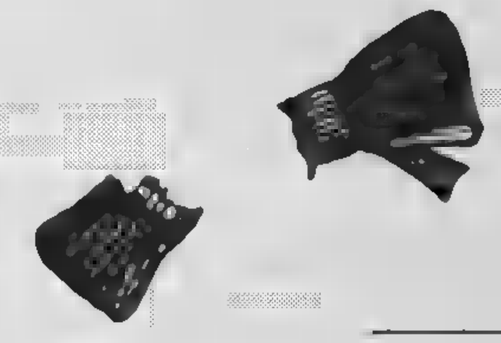
LET'S GO RIGHT NOW!





Love on the Other Side

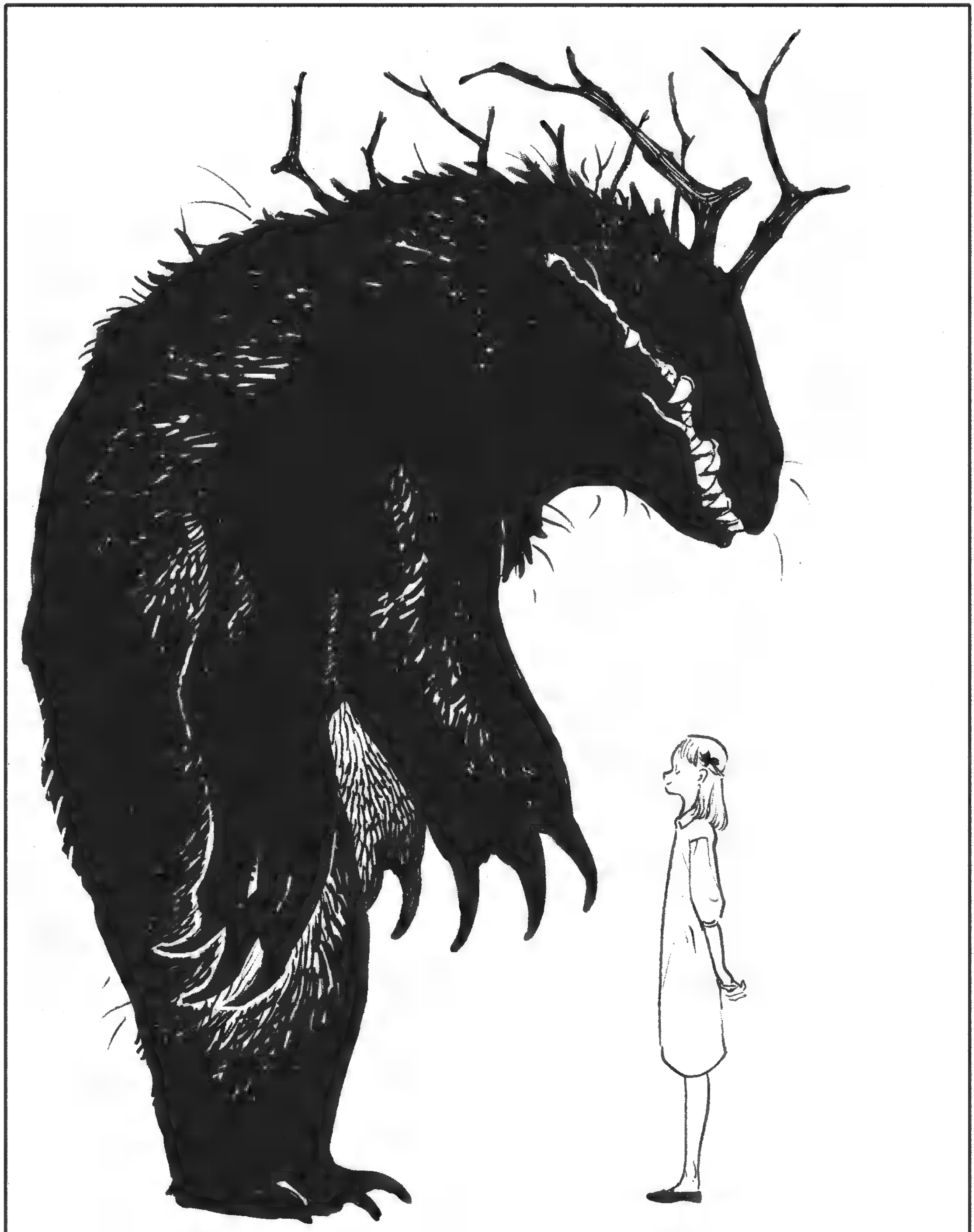
A Nagaba Short Story Collection



Love on the Other Side

A Nagabe Short Story Collection


SK
RRR...
SKR
KREAK
WELCOME HOME.



Those Without Eyes

DID YOU FIND ANYTHING TODAY?

WU MF

KANG KANG

KANG KANG KANG

OVER THERE?

STUB

OKAY, I'M COMING!

WMP

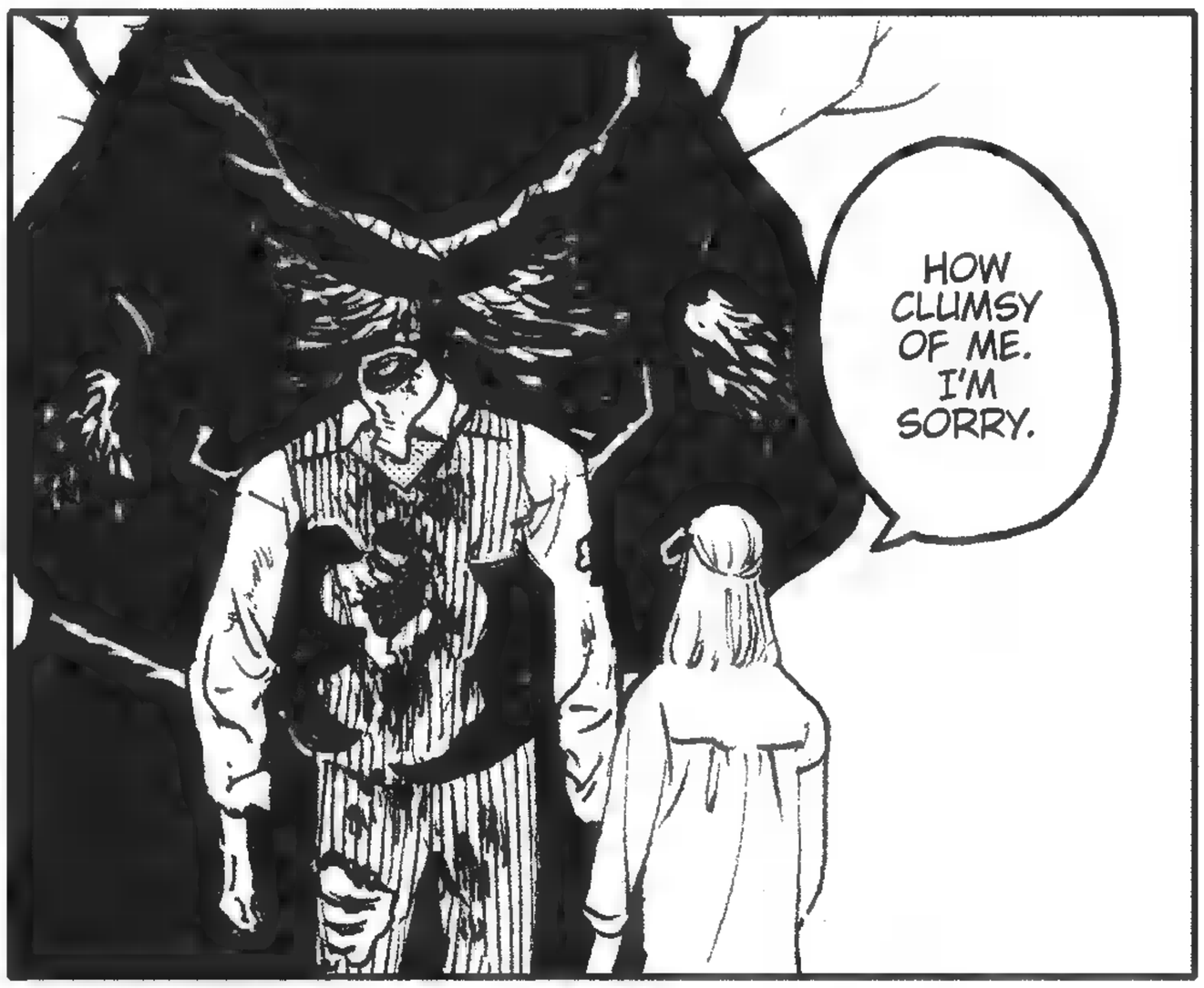
EEP!

YOUCH...

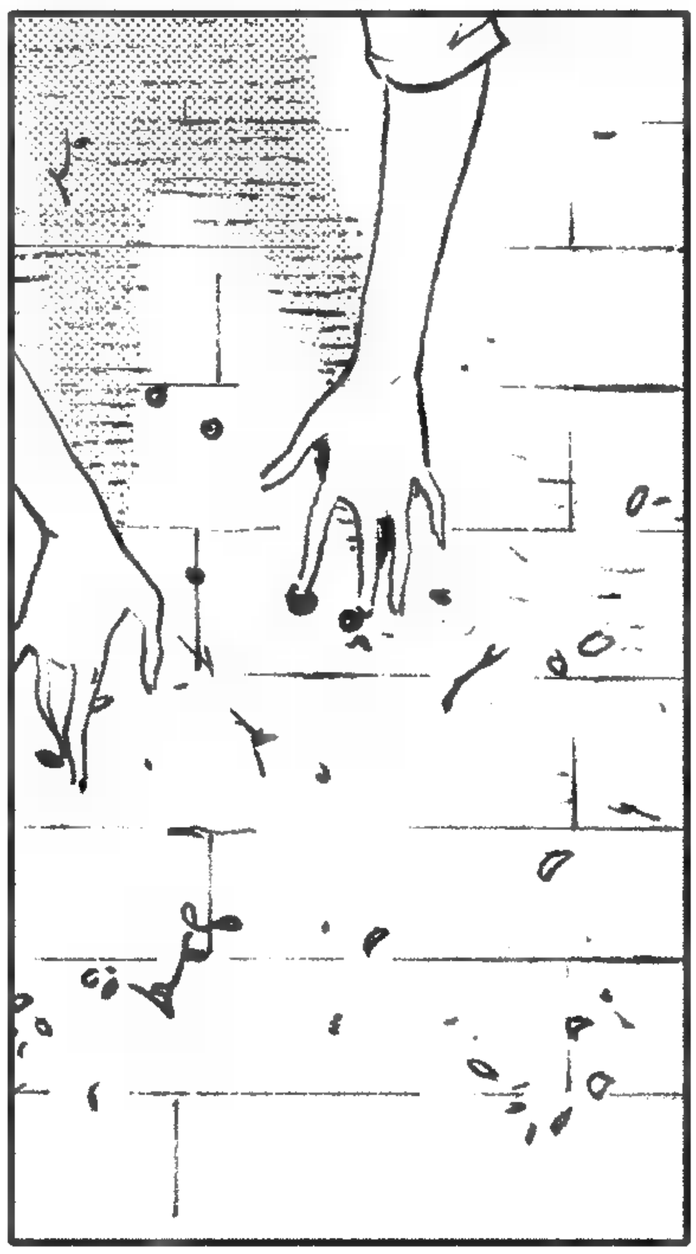
OH, THANK YOU!

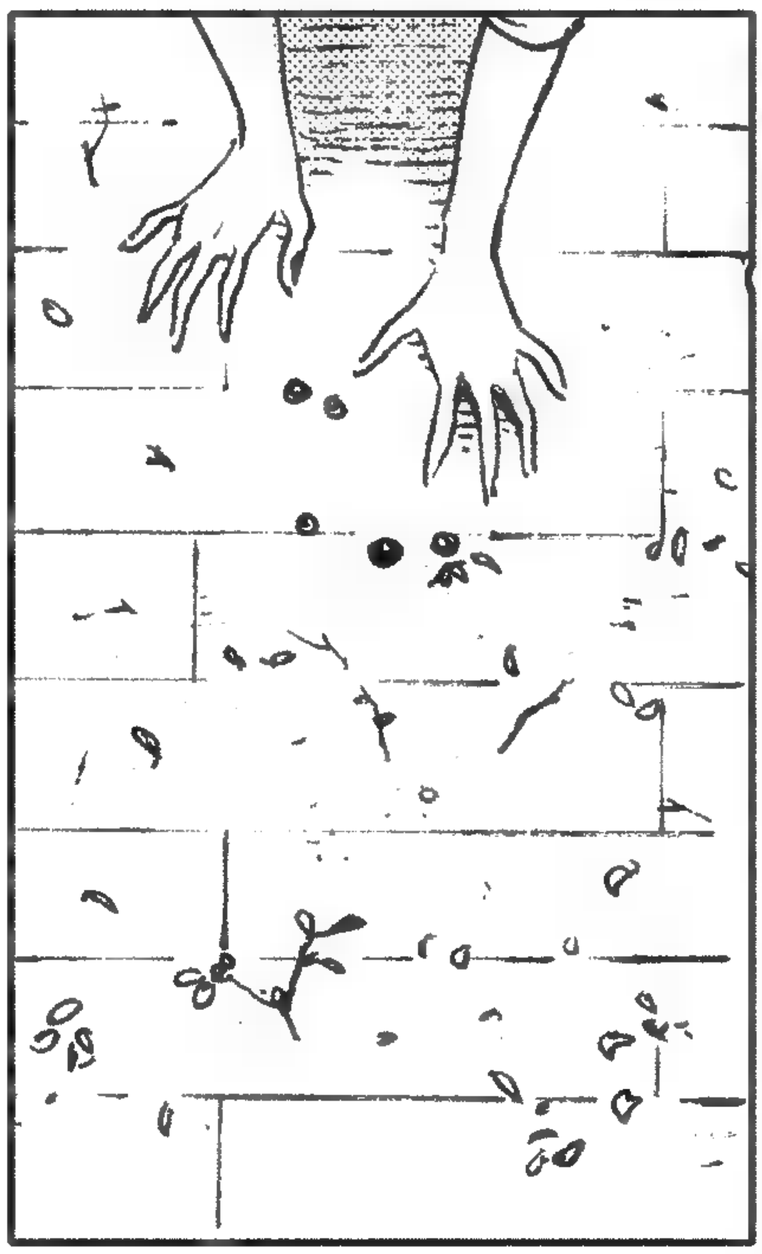
PAT PAT


I APPRE-CIATE YOUR HELP.


HOW CLUMSY OF ME. I'M SORRY.


FWUF






FWAF
FWAF

THANK YOU FOR THAT!

IT TASTED SCRUMPTIOUS.

KANG
KANG

HOW KIND. THANK YOU AGAIN.

GOOD NIGHT!

KONG
KONG

...RRRRR

SKUF

PHEEW!

AM I MANAGING TO PLEASE IT ENOUGH?

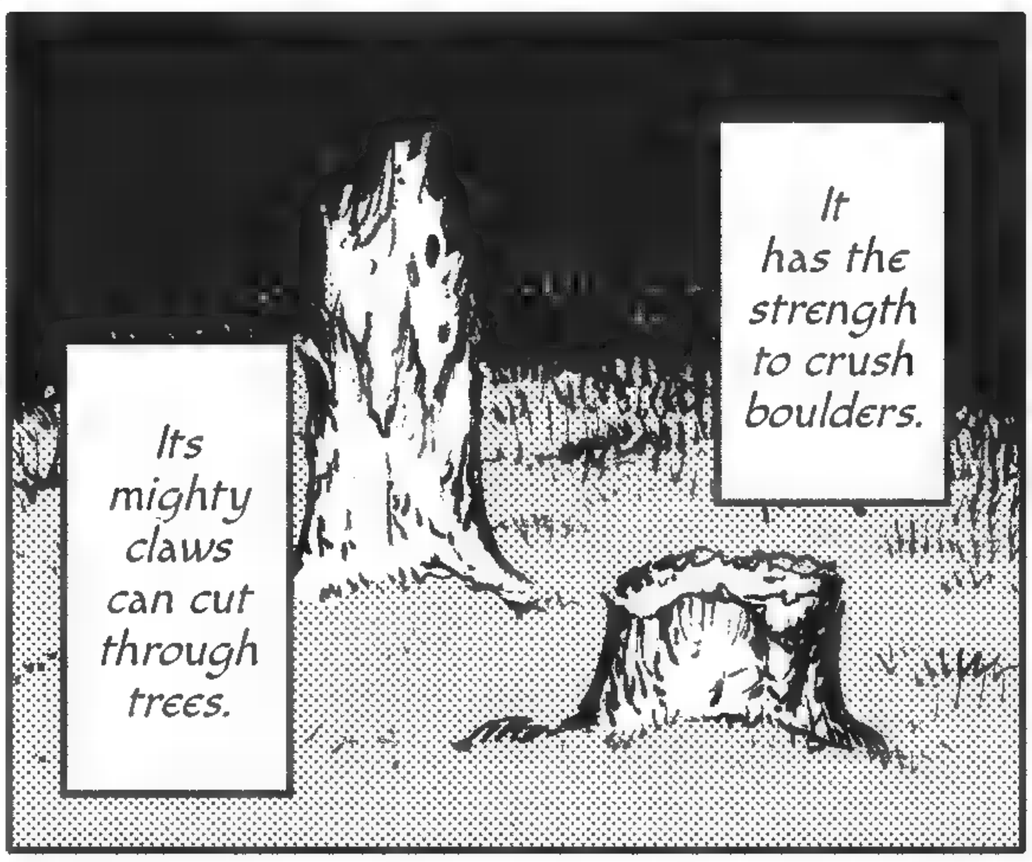
I MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER DAY SOME-HOW.

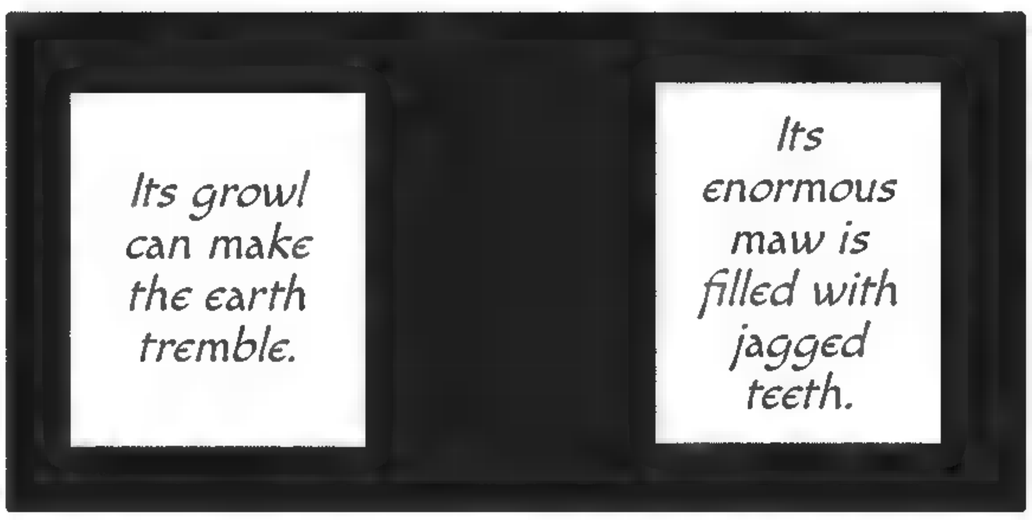
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY CURSED EYES.

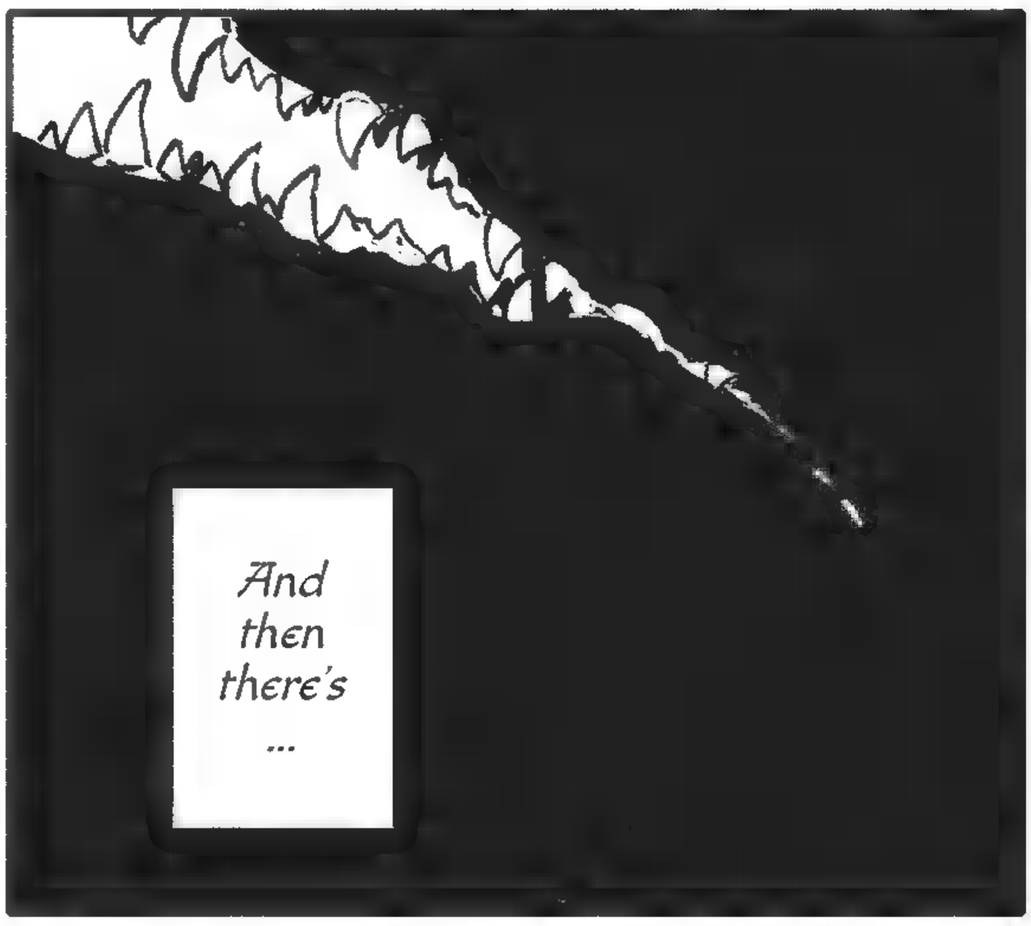
AH, HEAVENS ...

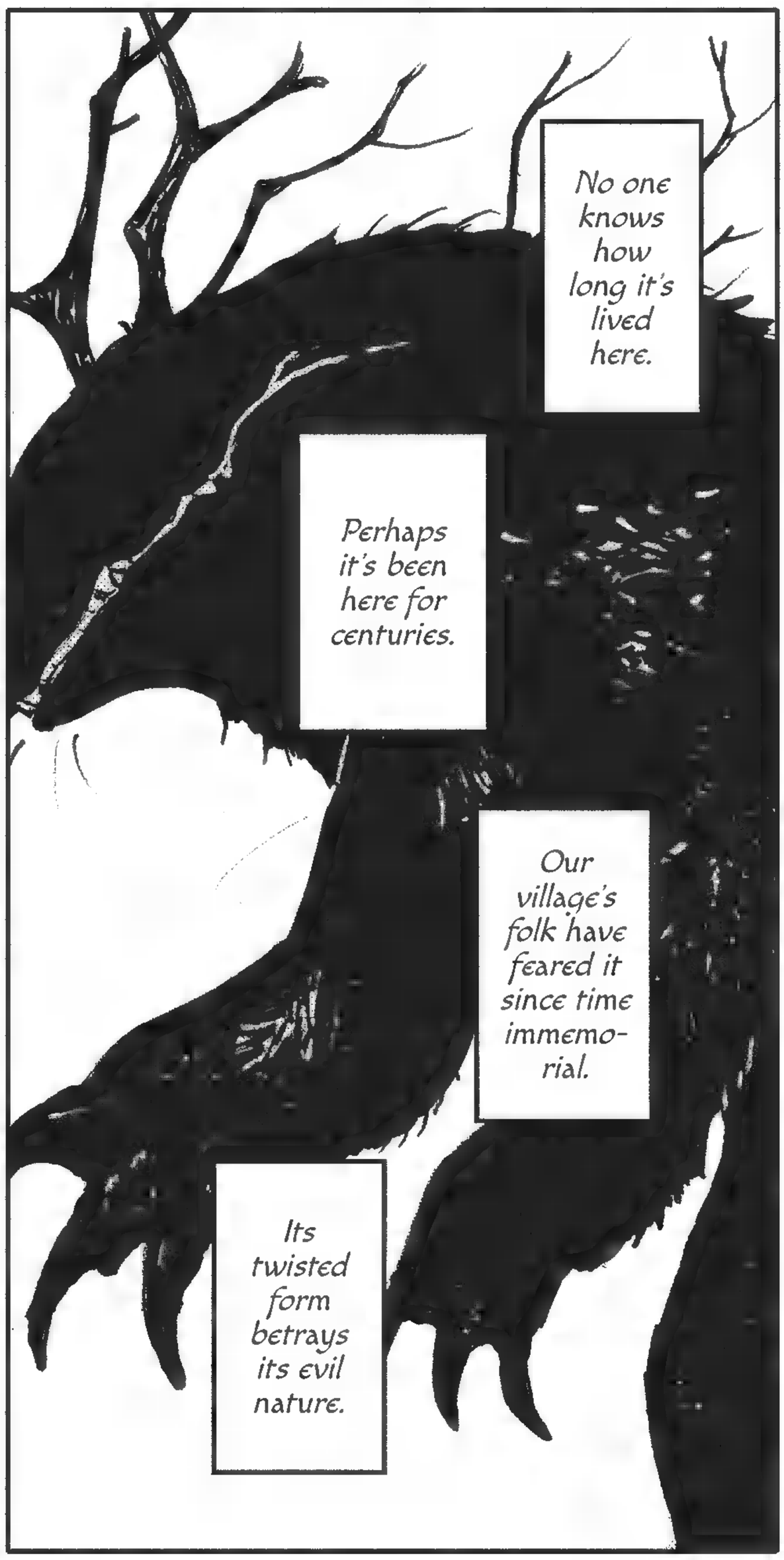
MAYBE TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY IT TIRES OF ME. I CAN'T BEAR TO EVEN THINK IT!


A monster dwells in these woods.


It has the strength to crush boulders.
Its mighty claws can cut through trees.


Its growl can make the earth tremble.
Its enormous maw is filled with jagged teeth.


And then there's ...


No one knows how long it's lived here.
Perhaps it's been here for centuries.
Our village's folk have feared it since time immemorial.
Its twisted form betrays its evil nature.

GARR UUR

IT'S ...

OUT THERE HOWLING AGAIN.

NOW IT'S RE-TURNED.

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

KREEK

IT'S STARTED AGAIN...

GRAARR...

KLUNK

KRAK

GRUOO!

PLOP

PLLOP

PLLOP

THEN...

ONCE THEIR REMAINS HAVE BEEN... BEEN DEVOURED...

THEY LEFT TO SLAY THE BEAST, BUT NONE RETURNED.

THE VILLAGE'S HUNTERS, PERHAPS?

IT WILL BE MY TURN.

RATL RATL

TUG

A DOOR.

A TABLE.

TOO HEAVY.

OVER THERE, YES?

AHHH, I'M SO SORRY.

KANG KANG KANG KANG KANG

THAT MEANS I CAN'T RUN.

I DOUBT THERE'S A WAY FOR ME TO GET OUT.

EVERY-THING'S CLOSED UP TIGHT.

SUZAP

PERHAPS I OUGHT TO FIGHT...?

PER-HAPS NOT.

WITH MY EYES THE WAY THEY ARE...

THANK YOU.

EEP!

TRIP

IT'S LITTLE WONDER THE HUNTERS STOOD NO CHANCE.

ONE SWIPE OF ITS PAW WOULD BE THE END OF ME.

BESIDES ...

HOW DID I NOT NOTICE STRAIGHT AWAY?

WAS THE BEAST?

HOW COULD I NOT REALIZE THAT THE ONE WHO'D FOUND ME...

YET...

I WALKED STRAIGHT INTO ITS FEED BIN.

IT USED SUCH A VILE TRICK.

YOUR HANDS FEEL WARM AND COMFORT-ING.

YOUR TOUCH TELLS ME HOW KIND YOU ARE.

YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A HELP TO ME.

IT DOESN'T REALIZE I'VE FIGURED OUT THE TRUTH.

IT THINKS IT STILL HAS ME FOOLED.

THE BEAST **KNOWS** I CAN'T SEE.

THAT'S WHY IT PRETENDS TO BE HUMAN.

I WON'T GIVE UP!

AND STAY IN ITS GOOD GRACES, I SHOULD BE FINE.

IF I CAN JUST KEEP CONVINCING IT OF MY IGNORANCE...

PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU WITH THIS!

PERHAPS I COULD CLEAN FOR YOU?

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT TIDYING.

EEP!

I'D LIKE TO HELP IN RETURN.

AFTER ALL, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.

THANK YOU.

YOU'RE SO MARVELOUSLY KIND TO ME.

I ALMOST WISH I COULD HOLD THEM FOREVER.

MRUNK

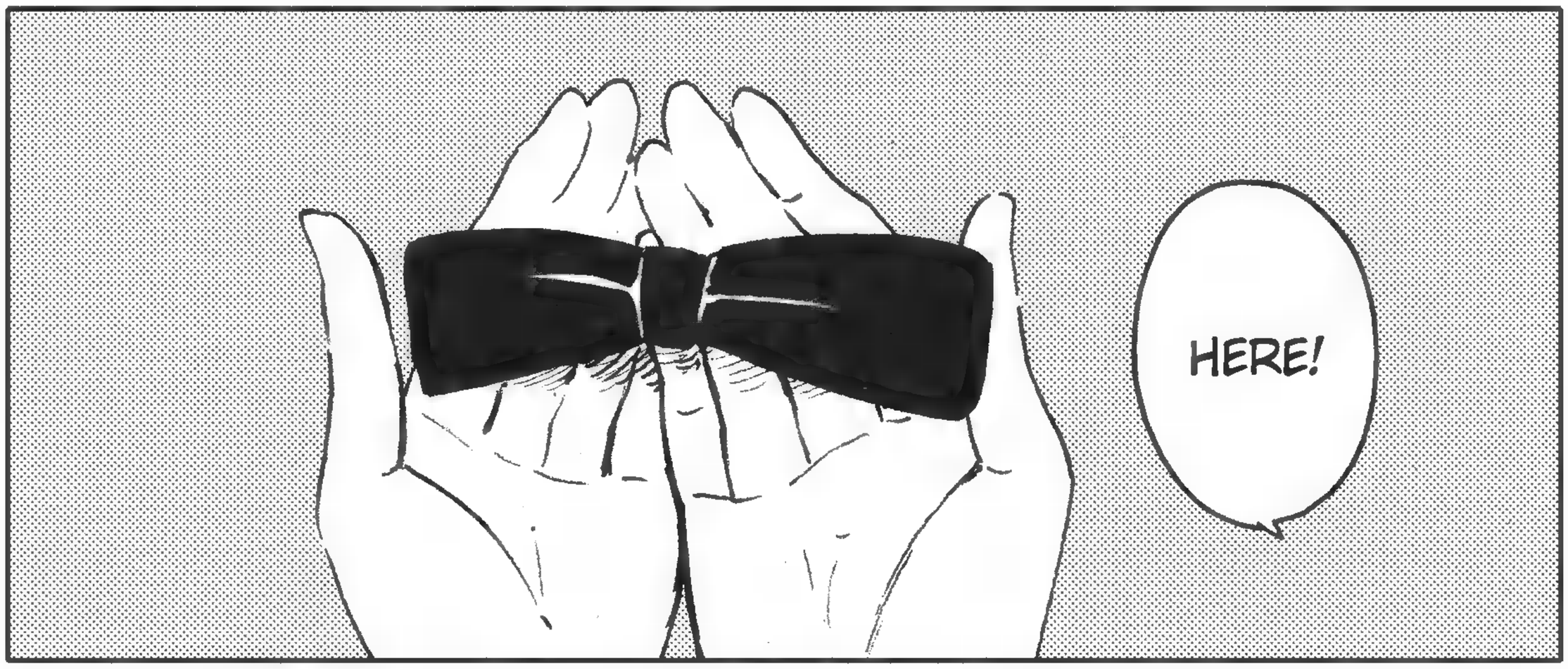
HM?

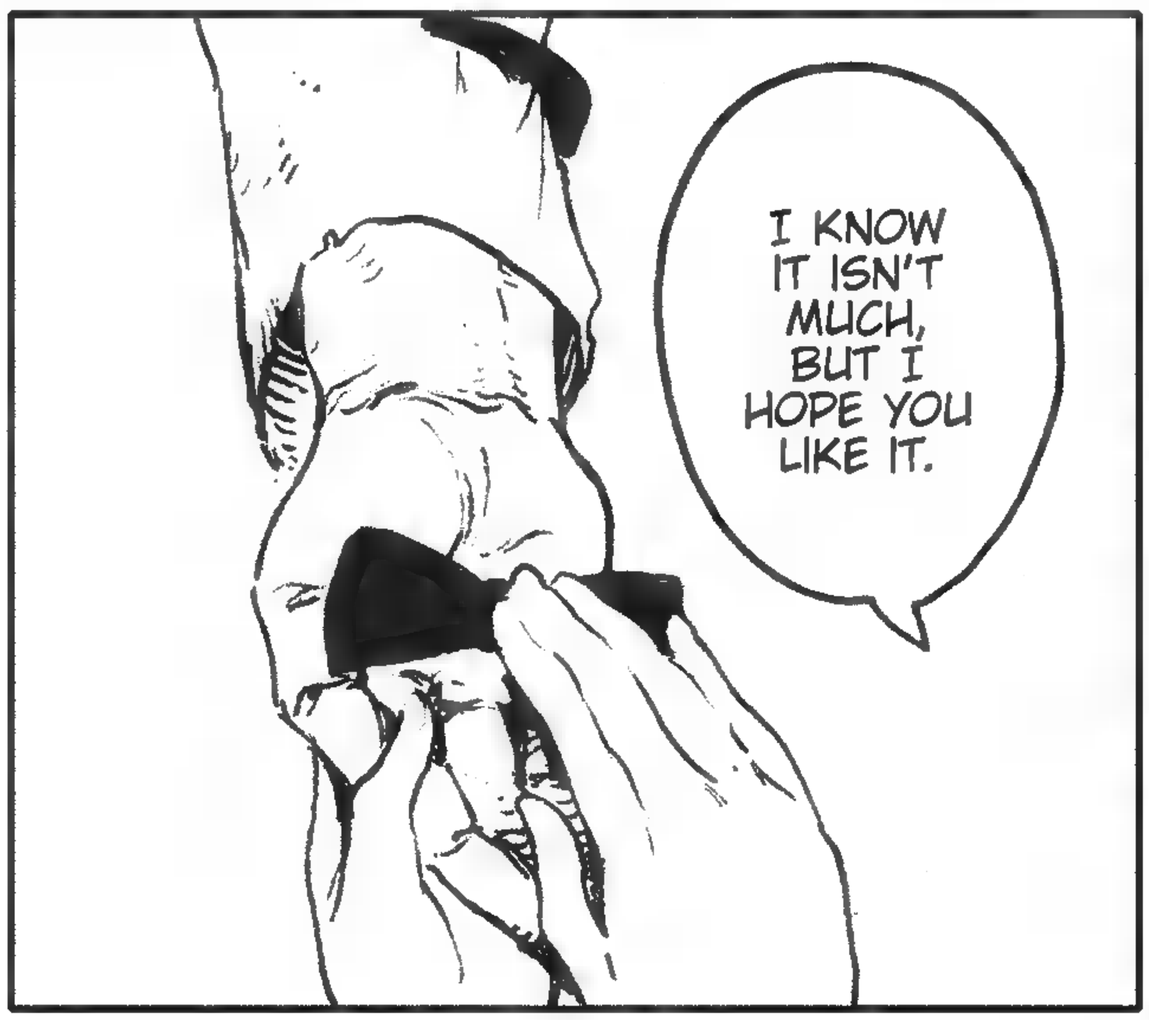
YOUR HANDS ARE SO STRONG, YET SO GENTLE.

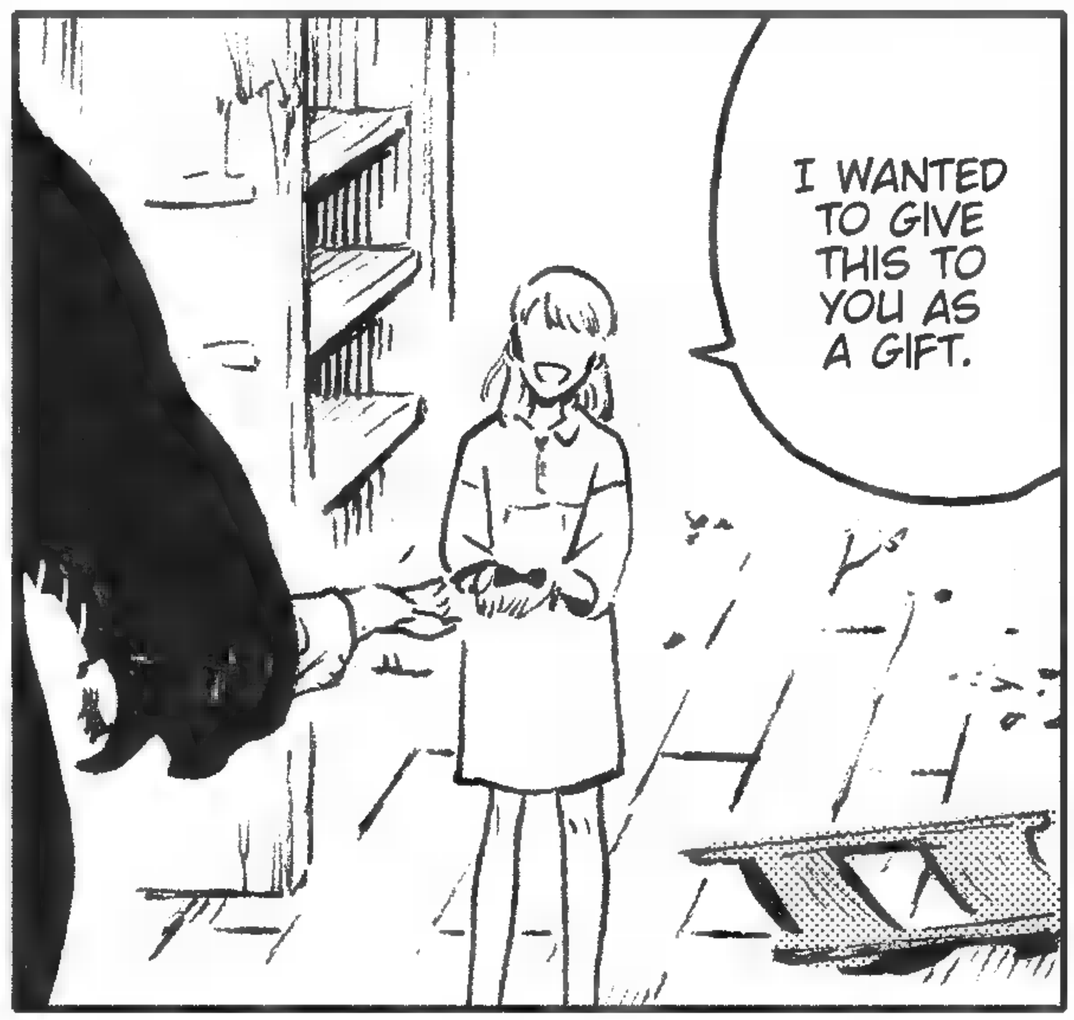
GRAAK

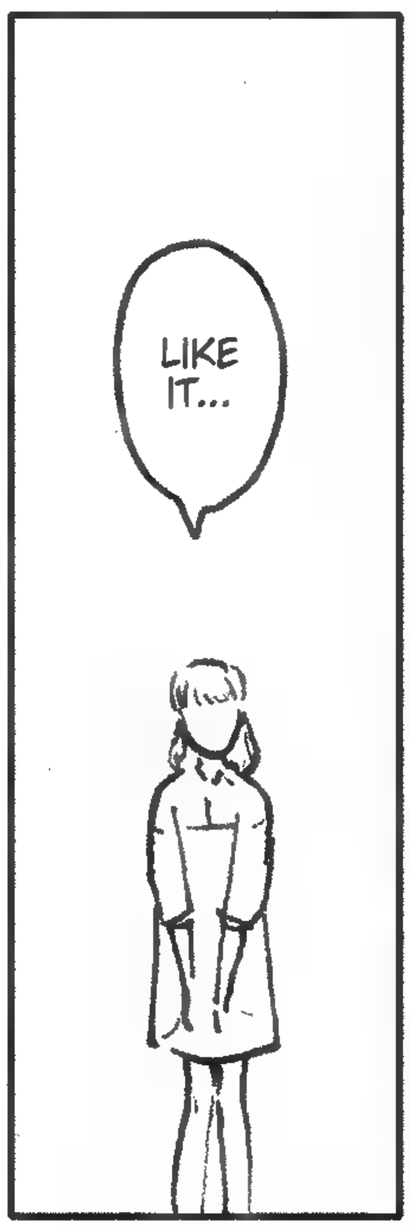
WAGL

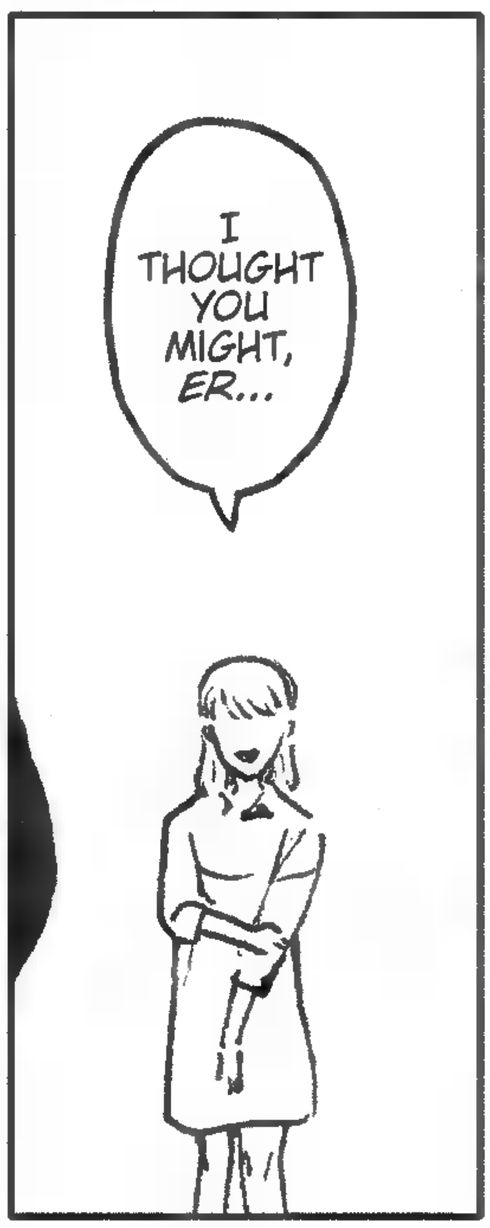
PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE ...!

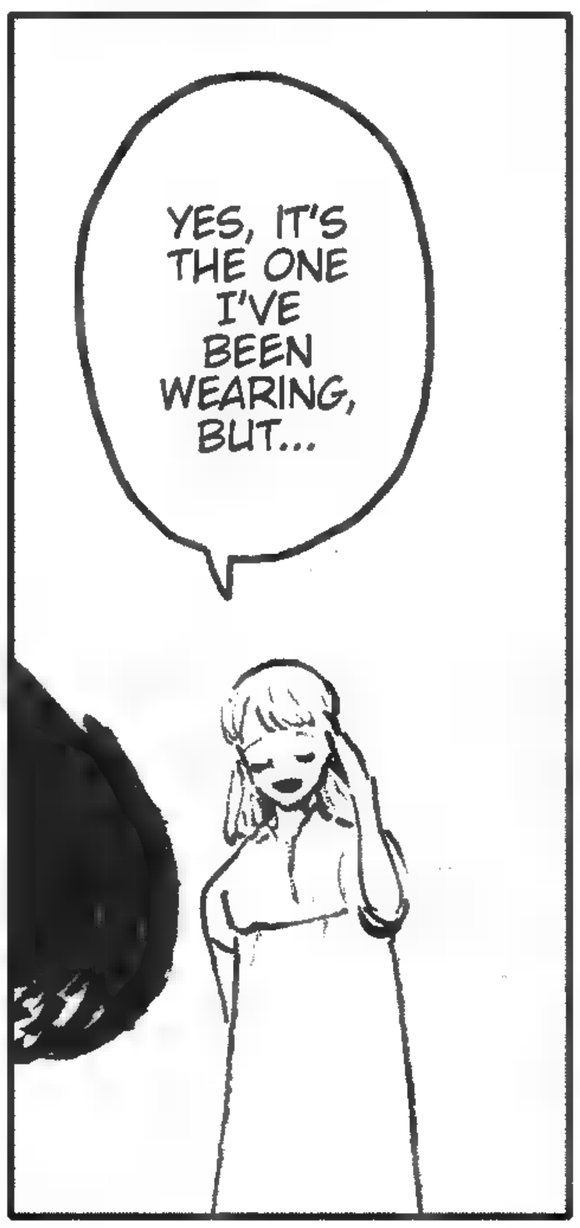

HERE!

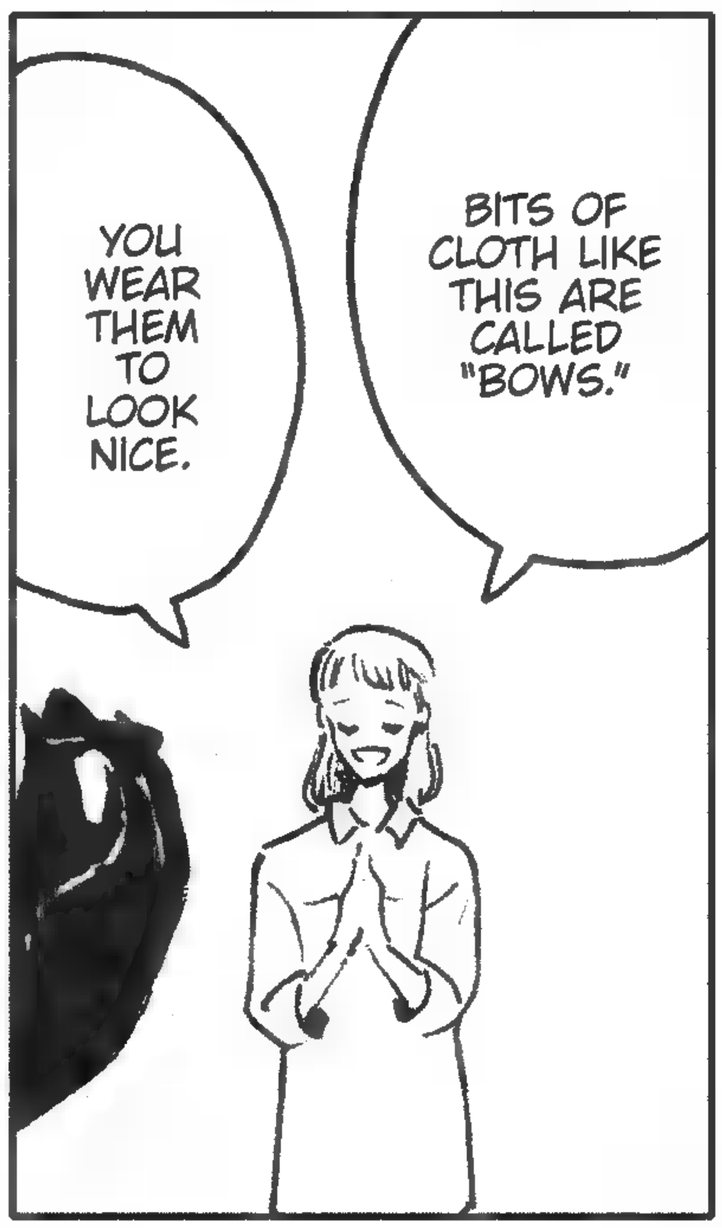

I KNOW IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.


I WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU AS A GIFT.


LIKE IT...


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT, ER...


YES, IT'S THE ONE I'VE BEEN WEARING, BUT...


YOU WEAR THEM TO LOOK NICE.
BITS OF CLOTH LIKE THIS ARE CALLED "BOWS."

I REALLY MESSED UP THIS TIME.

A BOW? WHAT WAS I THINK-ING?

UGH. THIS IS MY WORST IDEA YET.

RURR...

SAY...

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

THEN GIFTS ARE A WAY OF PLEASING IT!

WAIT... IT **DOES** LIKE THE BOW?

SH

RIP

KREK...

KREK KREK

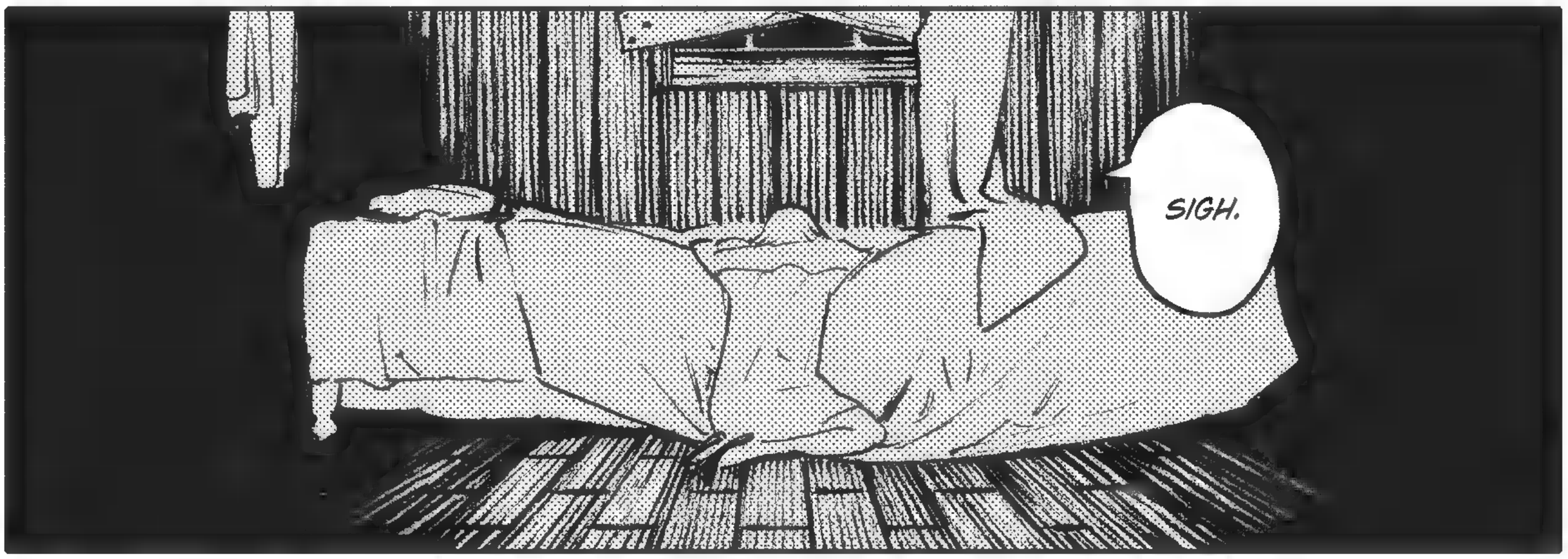
AHA HA HA...

AHA.

WHY WOULD YOU LIKE SUCH A SILLY THING?

AH...

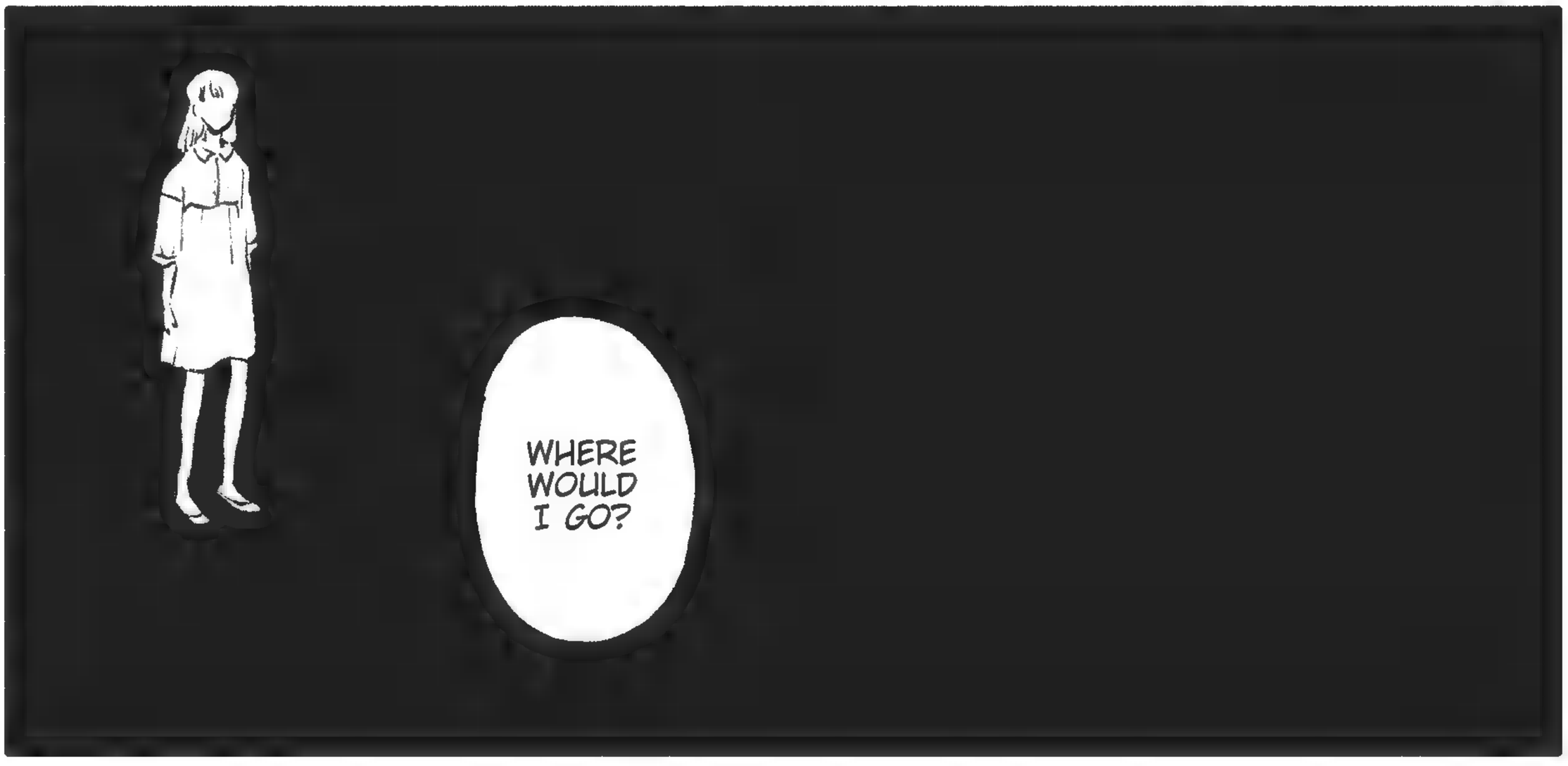
O-OF COURSE!


SIGH.


I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO CALL HOME.
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE WILL COME SAVE ME, SO WHY BOTHER DRAGGING IT OUT?
EVEN IF I DID SOMEHOW ESCAPE...


WHAT WAS I THINKING, TRYING TO BE CLEVER? IT'S A MONSTER.
AT THIS RATE, IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF I'D JUST SAT AND SMILED.


WHAT AM I EVEN DOING ...?


WHERE WOULD I GO?

I CAN SURVIVE QUITE NICELY.

AS LONG AS I CAN ABIDE THE STENCH...

I HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD.

HERE, I'M FED.

I CAN DO THAT! I CERTAINLY HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE BEING INGRATIATING.

IT WILL BE EASY.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE I STAY IN ITS GOOD GRACES.

PERHAPS I COULD STAY HERE LIKE THIS FOREVER.

IF I CAN MAKE IT LIKE ME...

I'M ALONE.

THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.

GRIIK

SPLAP

BZJ4P

KREK...

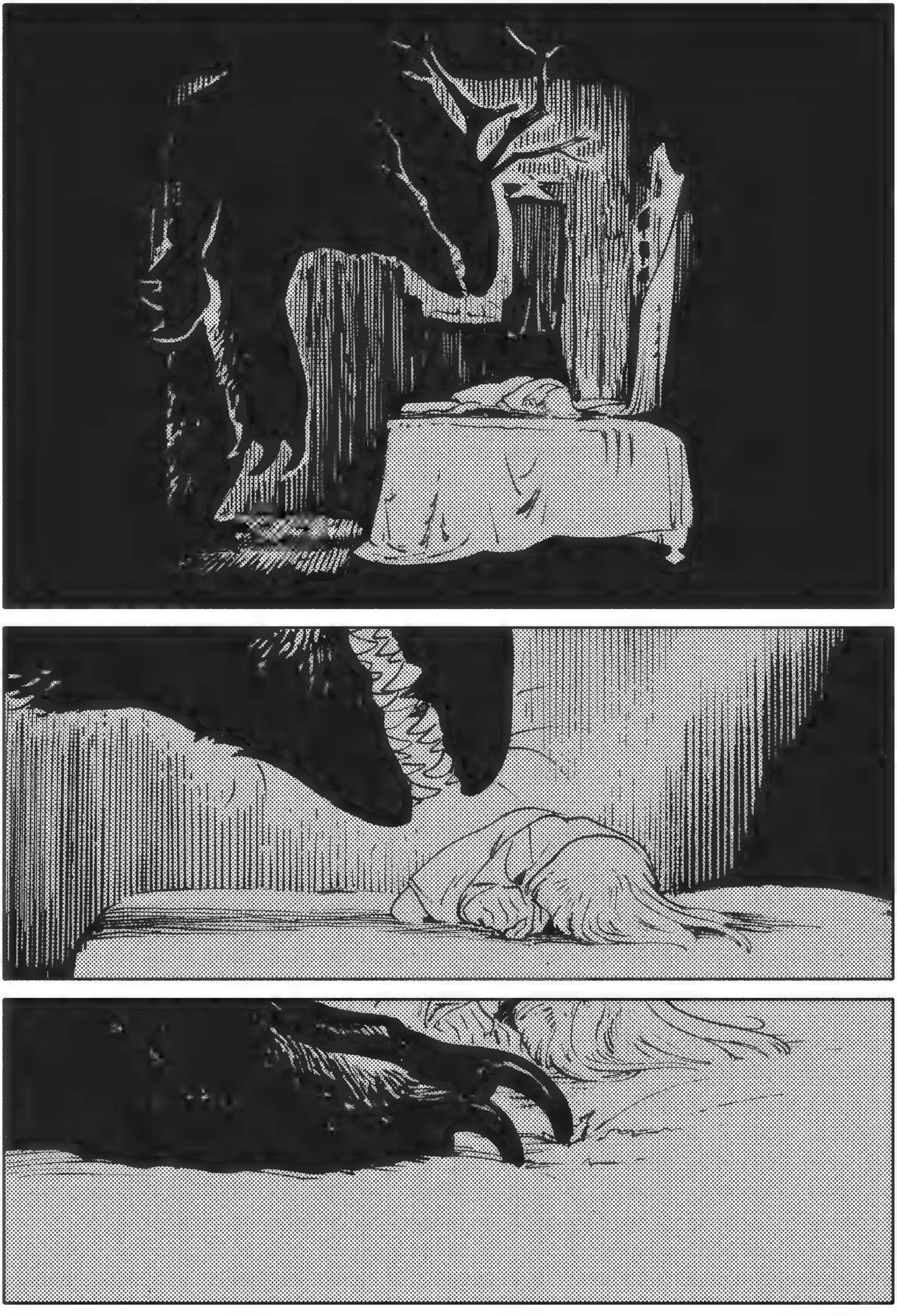
KREEK...

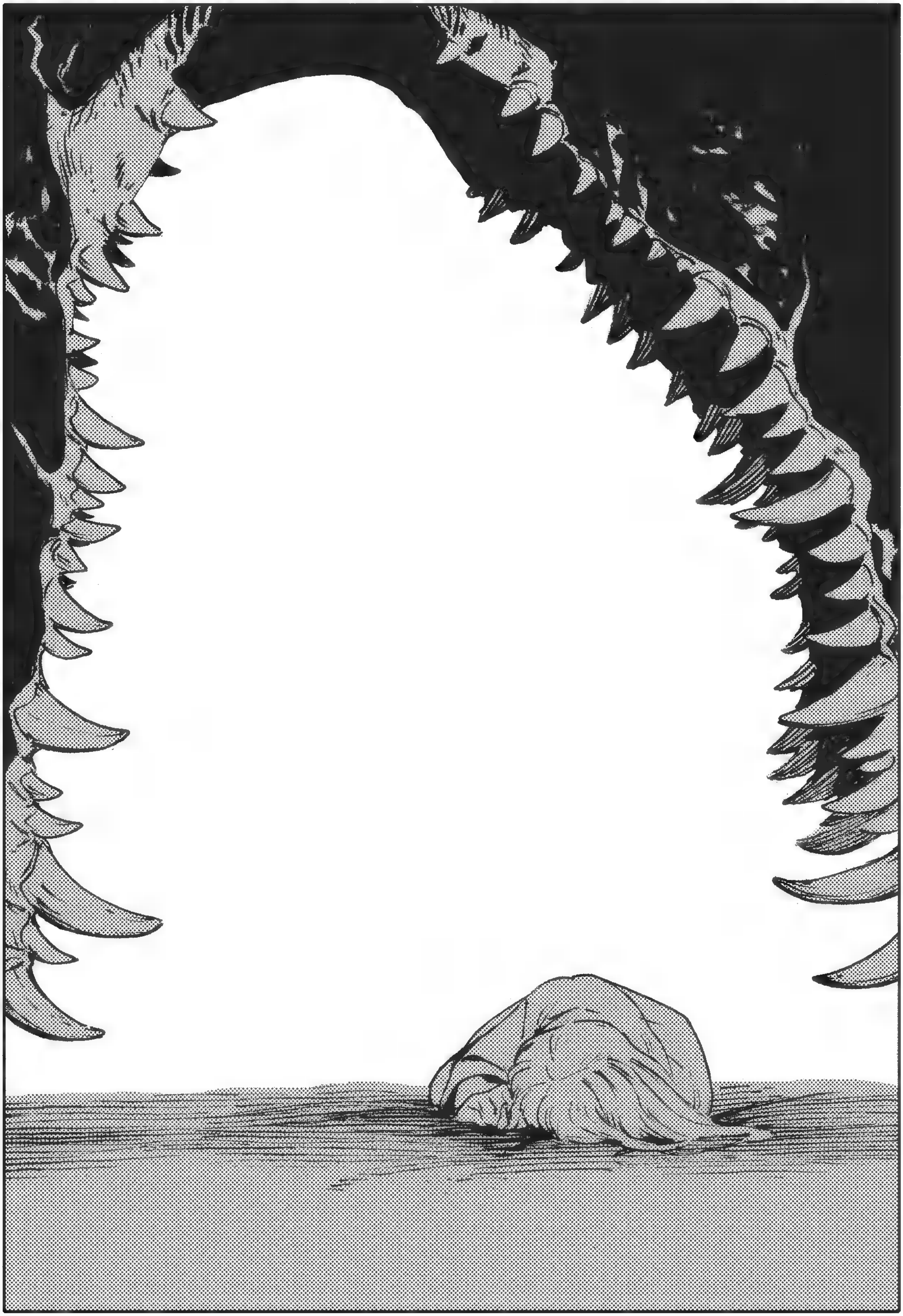
KREK...

AWOO...

AR...

GRAUUU...





HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAH...

HAH...

HAAH!

KREK...

KREK...

SK

RR

RR

I JUST CAN'T.

I DON'T WANT TO BE EATEN...!

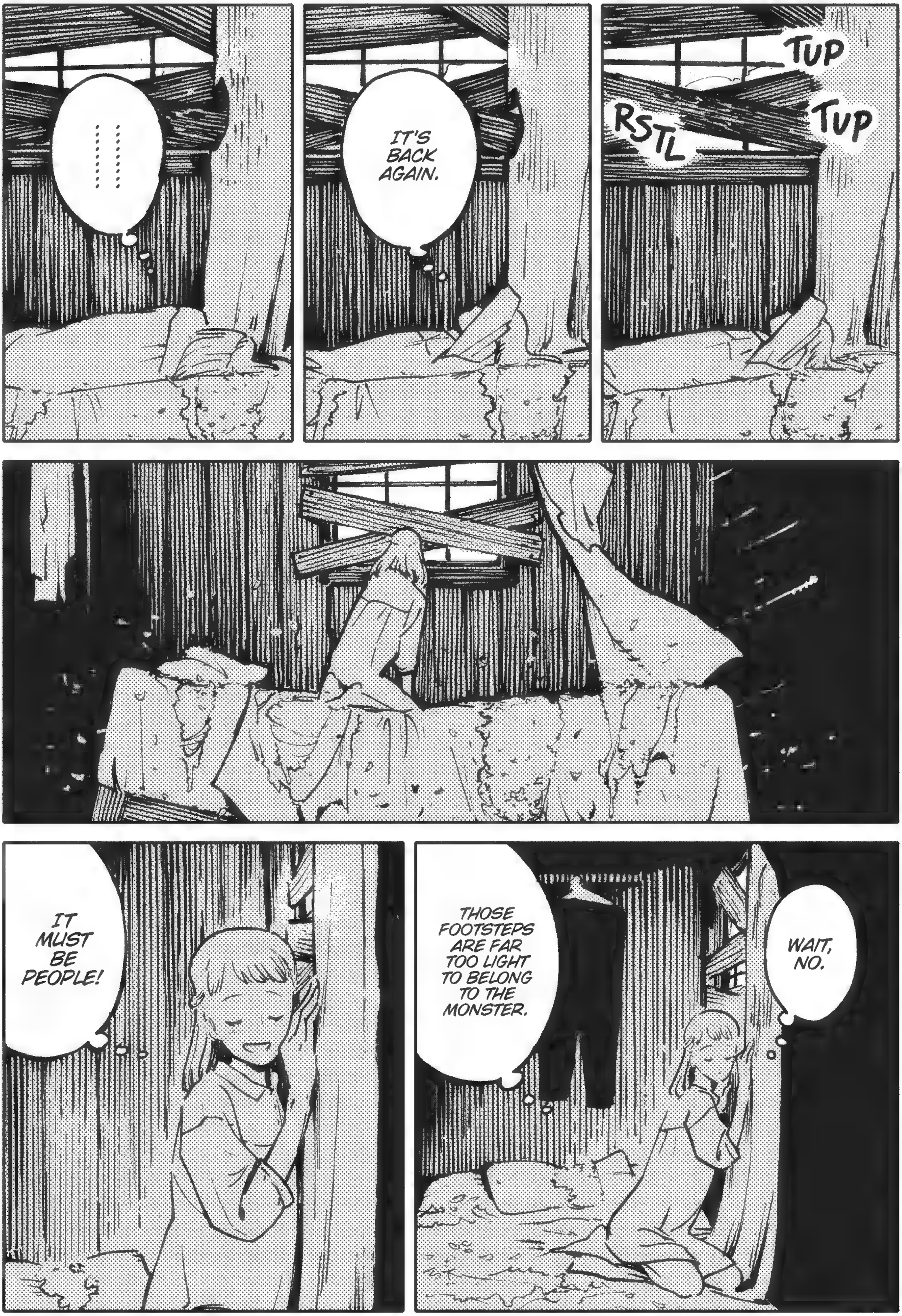
I CAN'T DO IT.

WITH MY EYES, I CAN'T TELL DAY FROM NIGHT.

.....

DAYS? WEEKS? PERHAPS EVEN MONTHS?

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?


...
IT'S BACK AGAIN.
RSTL
TUP
TUP
IT MUST BE PEOPLE!
THOSE FOOTSTEPS ARE FAR TOO LIGHT TO BELONG TO THE MONSTER.
WAIT, NO.

THE BEAST HASN'T YET RETURNED.

I CAN'T LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY!

COME ON... MOVE!

SO HEAVY!

HNN ...!

I JUST NEED TO FIND SOME WAY OUT-SIDE RIGHT NOW!

IT MOVED!

YES...!

SKRR.

I, AH...

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE HOME ALREADY.

AHA HA...

O- OH...

WELCOME HOME...

GRAWR!

I-I DIDN'T ...!

I WASN'T GOING TO LEAVE...!

GAR ARR!!

HRAAR!

I'M SO SORRY!

I'M SORRY!

KANG KANG KANG KANG KANG KANG KANG KANG

UM!

I-I'M COMING, I'M COMING.

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

BUT THAT WAS MY CHANCE --!

I'M LOCKED IN AGAIN.

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

BA-

KRUK

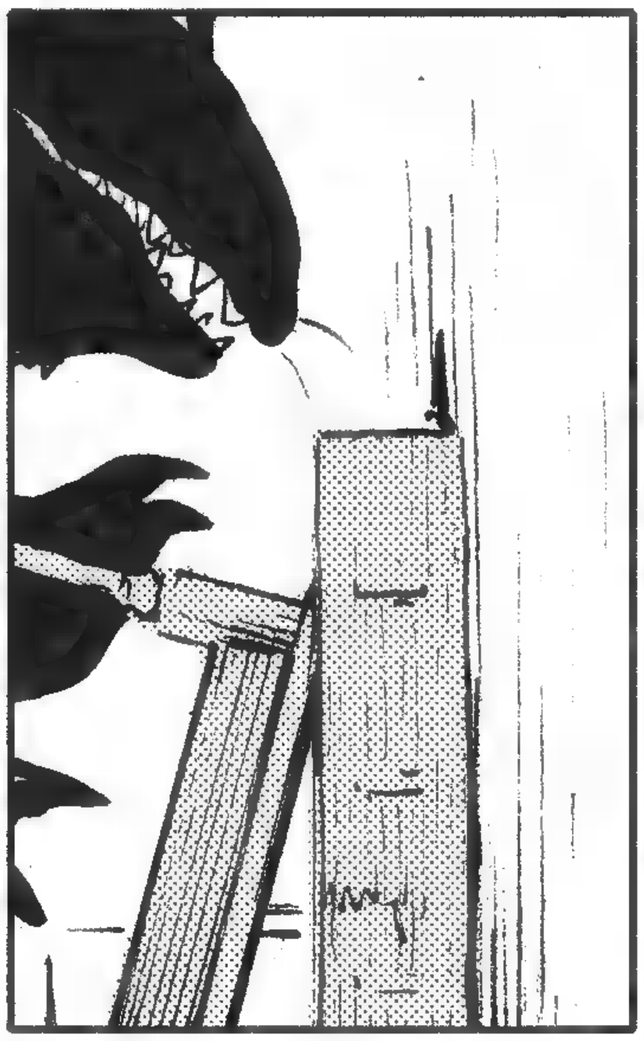
LET ME OUT!

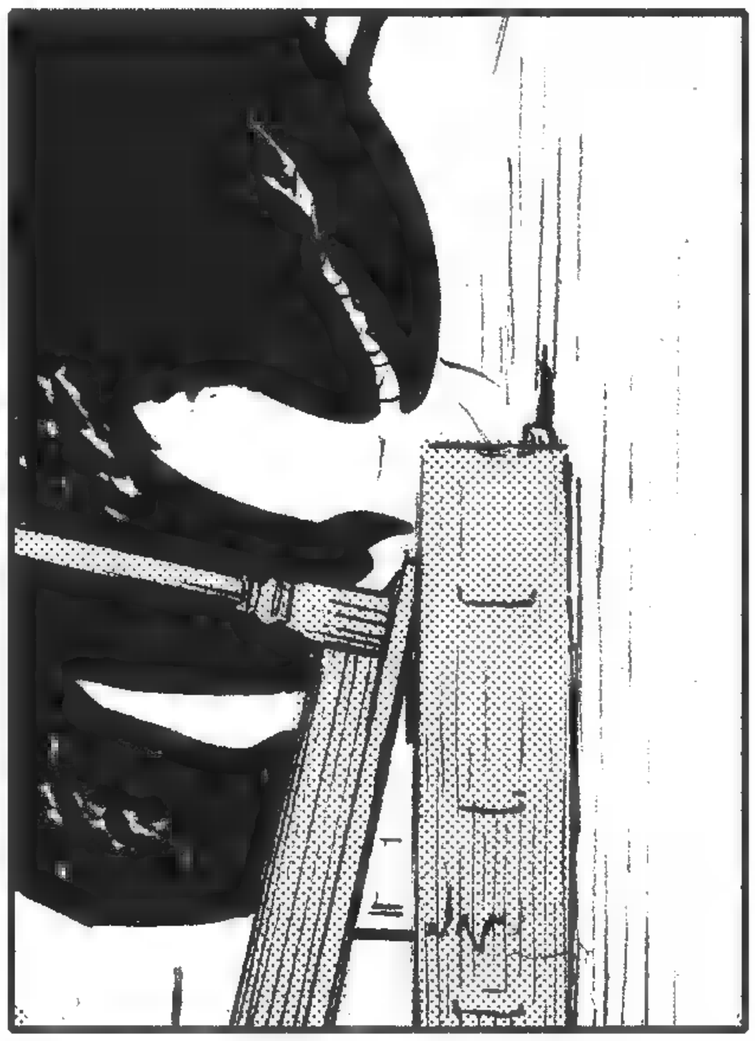
WHY?! WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?!

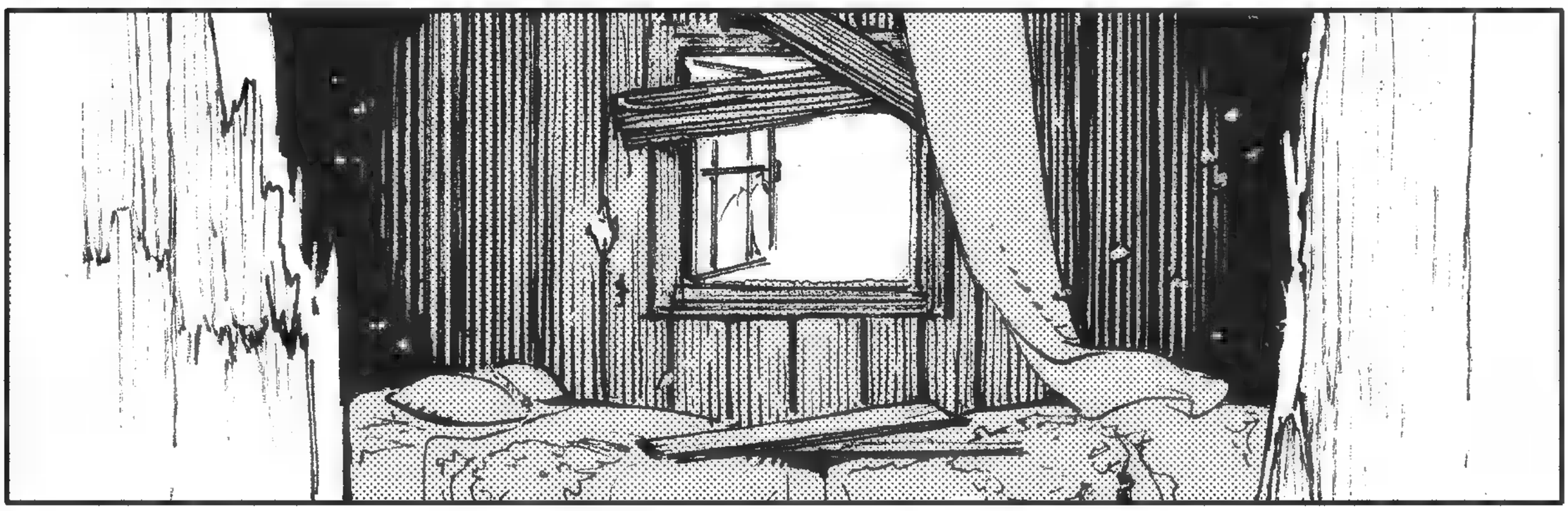
YANK

YANK


SKRAK












HELP ME!
IT'S GOING TO EAT ME! HELP!
THE MONSTER'S CHASING ME!


RSTL


PLEASE! SOMEONE HELP!

THERE'S A HORRIBLE MONSTER AFTER ME!

SKF

SKF

PLEASE HELP ME!

SKF

SKF

OH, THANK GOOD-NESS.

RSTL

SKF

HUH ...?

SNURRRR...

SNAARR...

WAURR!
GRARK!
RARK!
RARK!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING...

NOOO!

YEEK!

STAY AWAY!

NO ONE EVER MENTIONED WOLVES!

HOW ARE THERE WOLVES ?!

HELP ...!

WHY?!

I NEVER WOULD'VE WISHED I DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE THEM!

IF I'D KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

NOT EVEN MY WEAK, CLUMSY SELF, WHO COULD NEVER LIVE UP TO EXPECTA-TIONS.

OR MY STEP-SISTERS, WHO AREN'T KIN AT ALL...

NOT MY MEAN STEP-BROTH-ERS...

NOT MY SHORT-TEMPERED PAPA...

NOT MY DETEST-ABLE MAMA...

THEN I REALLY DID LOSE MY SIGHT.

BUT NOTHING WAS EVEN SLIGHTLY BETTER.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO...

I WISHED I COULD NEVER, EVER SEE THEM AGAIN.

THINGS WOULD BE AT LEAST A LITTLE BETTER THAN THEY HAD BEEN.

I GUESS WHEN YOU DIE, IT'S JUST MORE DARKNESS.

I WAS TRAPPED IN DARKNESS.

THERE WAS NO LIGHT ANYWHERE.

PL IP

I CAN STILL HEAR THE WOLVES GROWLING.

GRURR!

RURR!

RURRR!

RU: RRR!

MY WHOLE BODY HURTS.

IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN BITTEN ALL OVER.

BLOOD ...?

THEN THERE'S THE SMELL...

RAIN? IT'S AWFULLY WARM.

PLIP

PLIP

CHOMP

CHOMP

CHOMP

GRRR!

WAURRR!

GRARK!

GRAA
OOAA
A

PLIP
PLIP
HUH...?
WAIT...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

SKF

WHY ...?

FLUMP

I WAS TRYING TO ESCAPE...

BUT YOU...

WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?

NUZL

SWF...

AREN'T YOU TRYING TO *EAT* ME...?

FWIF

GUR..

RURR.

URR..

IS THIS REAL...?


SZARR!!
WAJRR!!
WAUR!
WAURRR!
RARK!!

RURR!
RARF!
RARF!
GRARK!







RURRR...

GUURR...

GRRR...

URRR...

GUU...

?

?

?

SLUMP


GUWAR?!

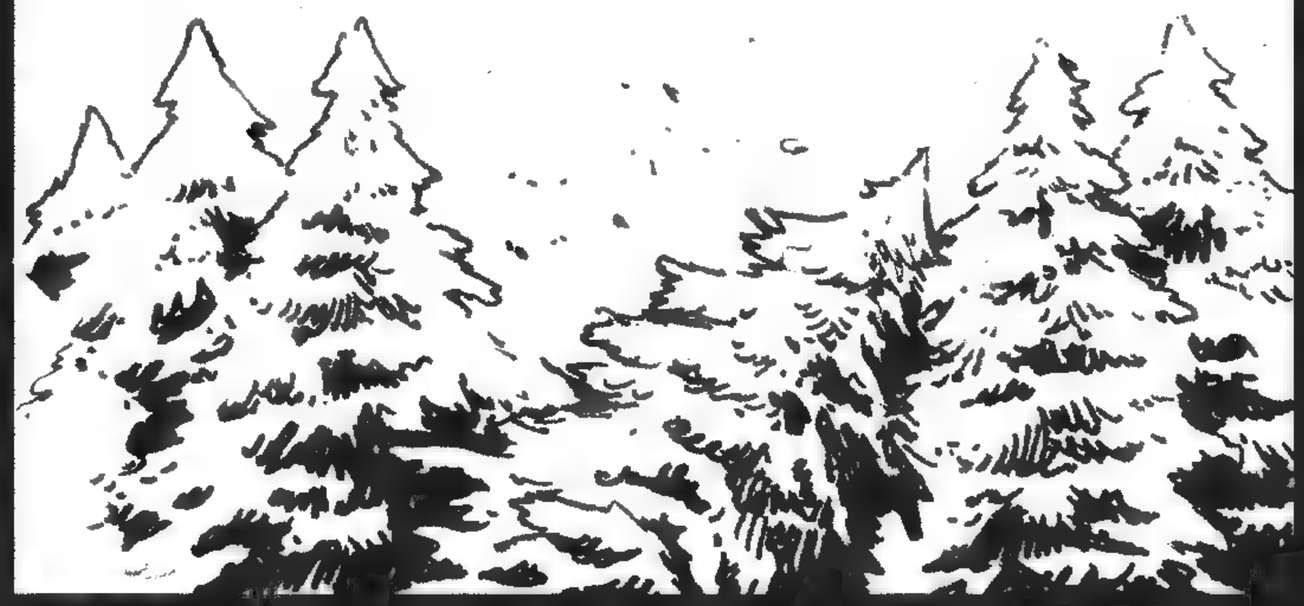
































AUU..

GAUU...

GRAUUU..

GAAA...

GRAA

AUUU

AUU

GRAAA

AAAA

AUUU...

MAMA...
WHY...
PAPA...
HIF!
HIF!
SNIFL!







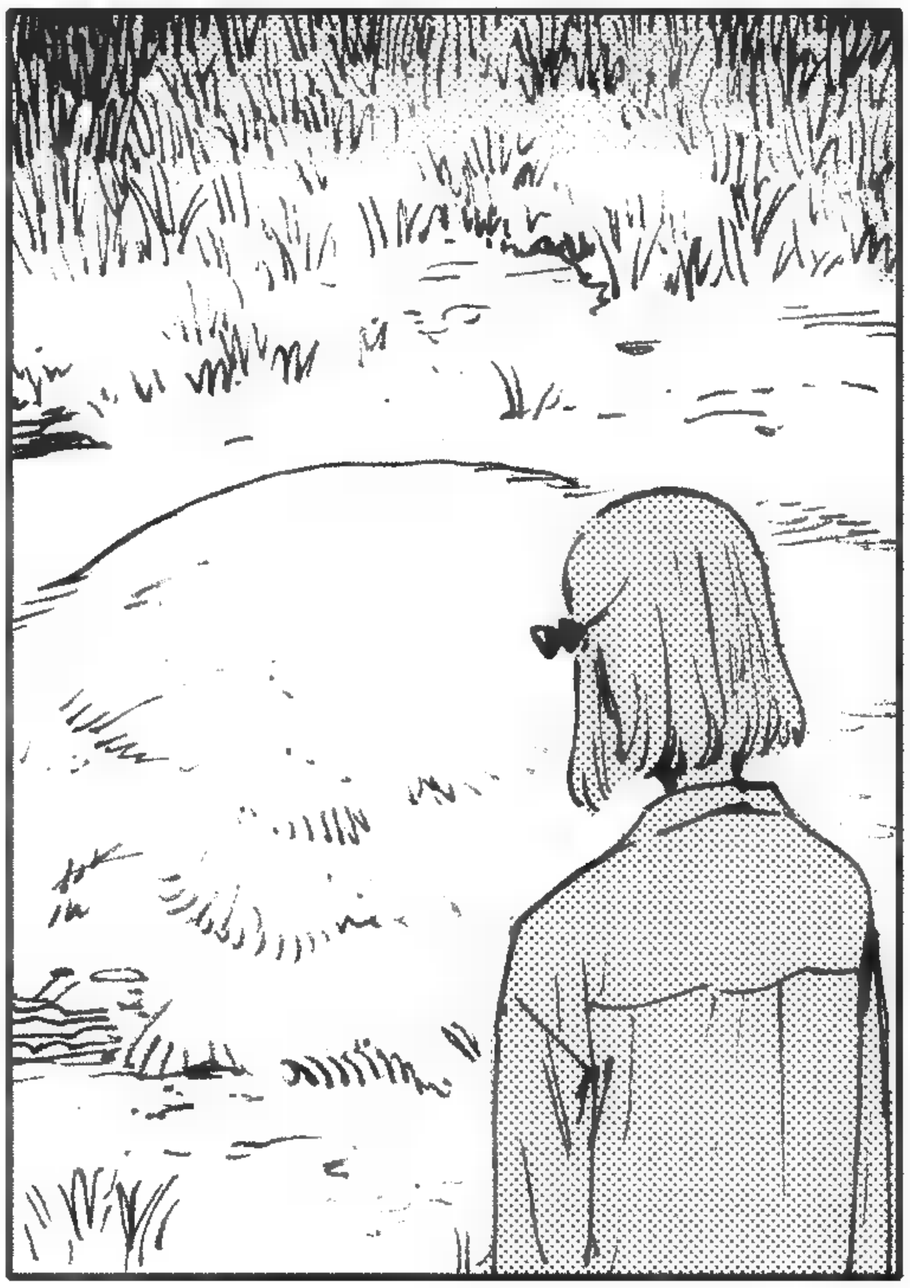


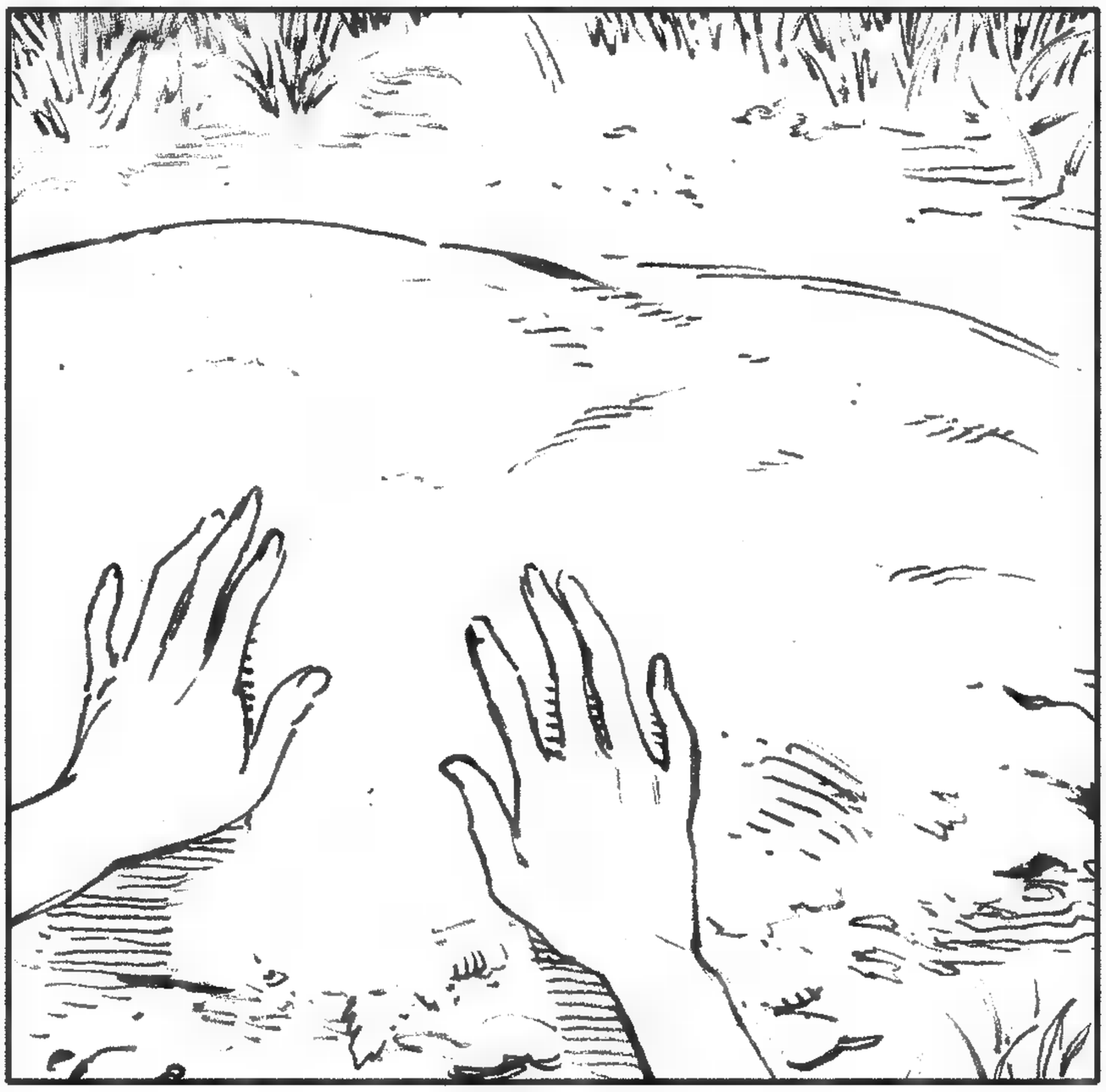


YOU'VE JUST BEEN LONELY OUT HERE ALL BY YOURSELF.

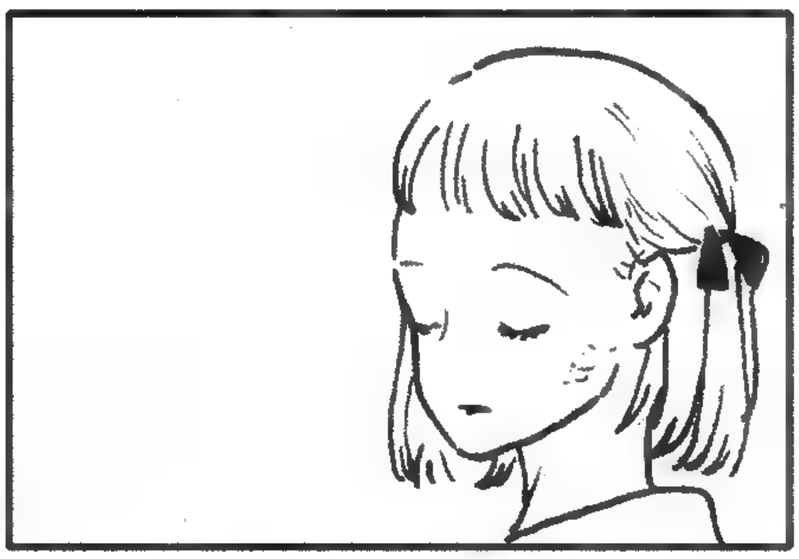
YOU AREN'T A PEOPLE-EATER, EITHER. YOU'D **NEVER.**

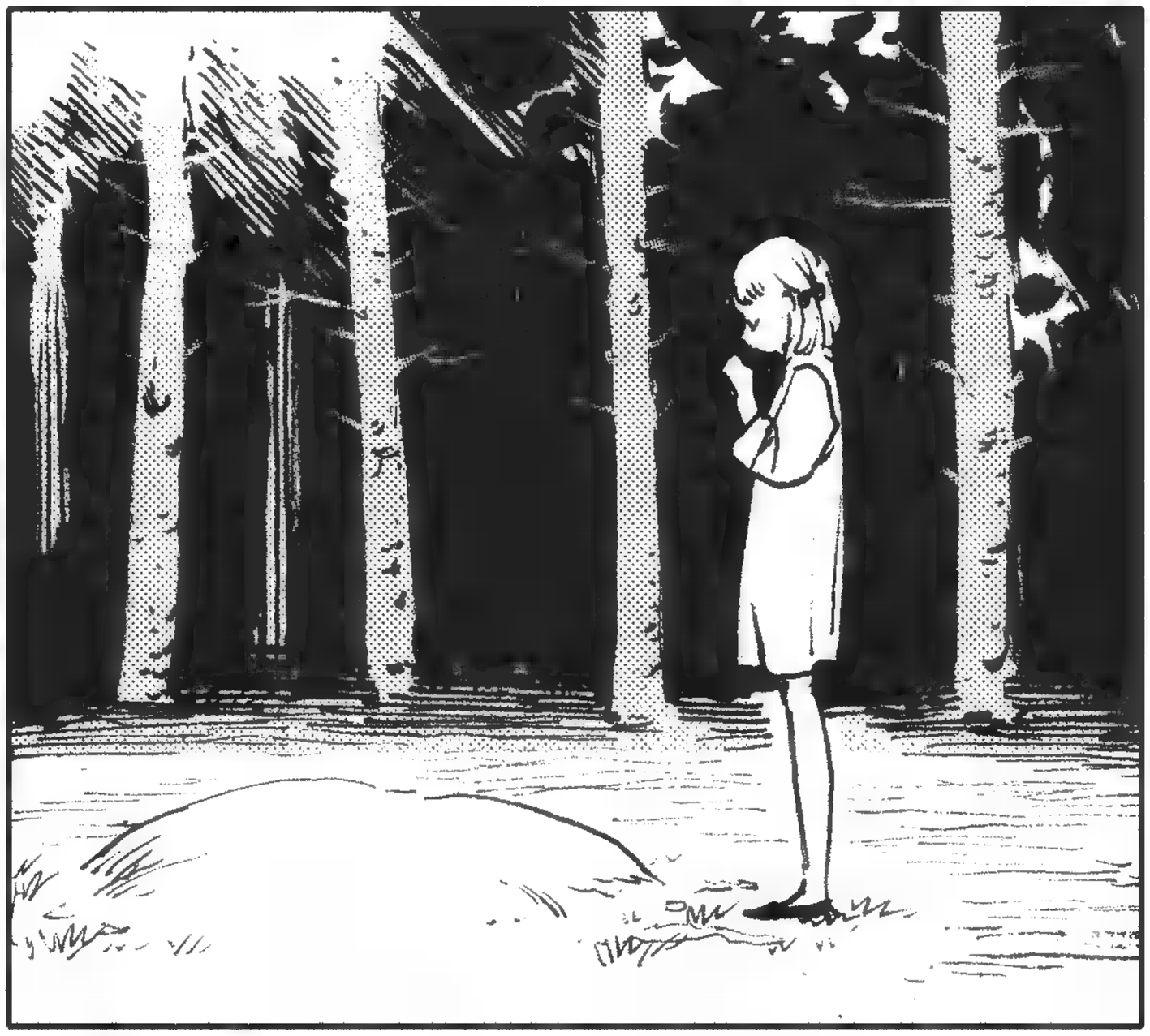
YOU WERE PROTECTING ME FROM THE WOLVES THAT WHOLE TIME, WEREN'T YOU?





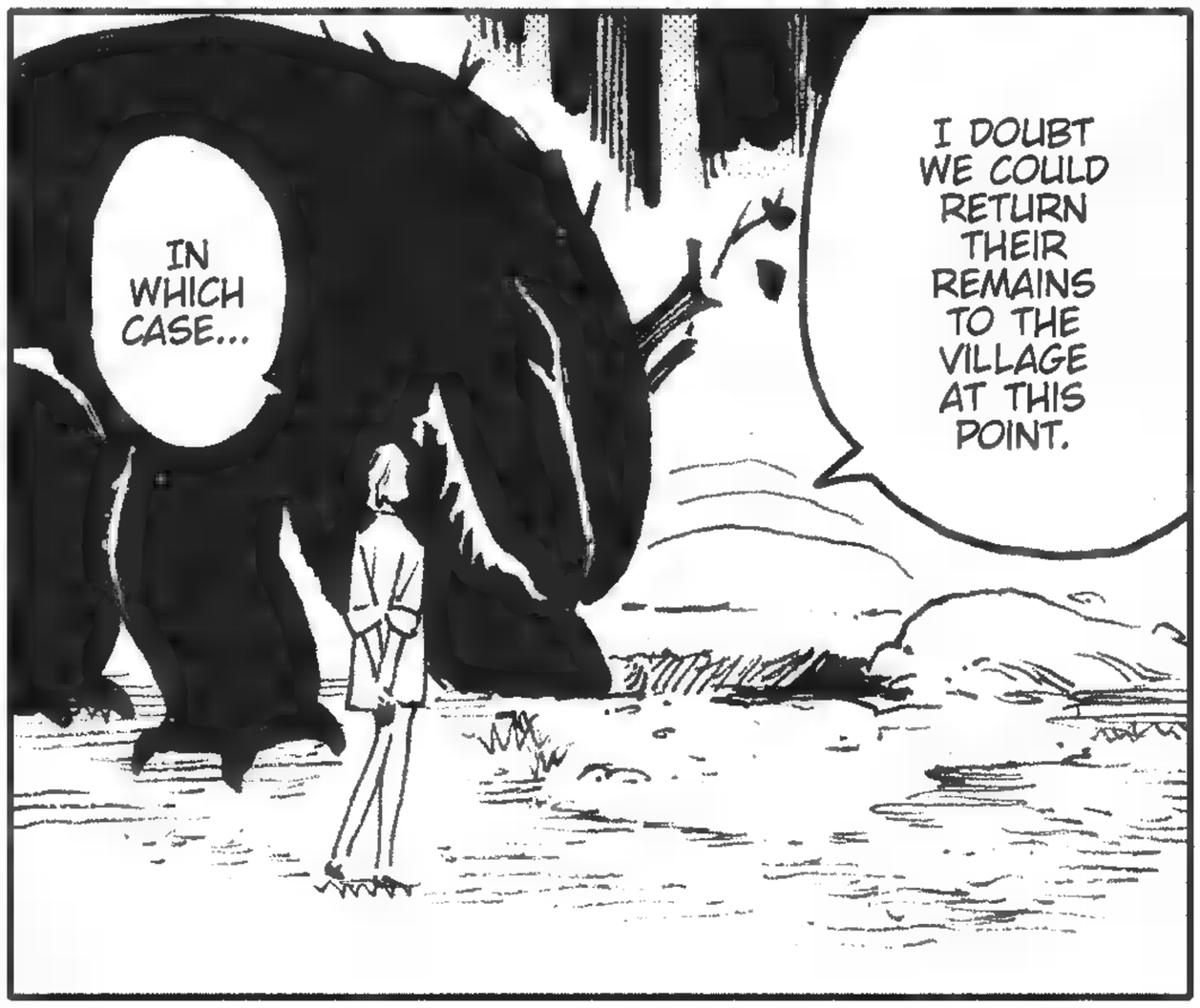







HE'S THE LAST?


GIVING THEM A PROPER BURIAL OUT HERE IS ALL WE CAN DO FOR THEM.


IN WHICH CASE...
I DOUBT WE COULD RETURN THEIR REMAINS TO THE VILLAGE AT THIS POINT.

ARE HEALED NOW, RIGHT? I'M GLAD.

YOUR WOUNDS ...

HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN TODAY?

WHAT, AGAIN? GOOD-NESS.

RURR.

YOU KNOW...

YOU SMELL LIKE THE **SUN.**

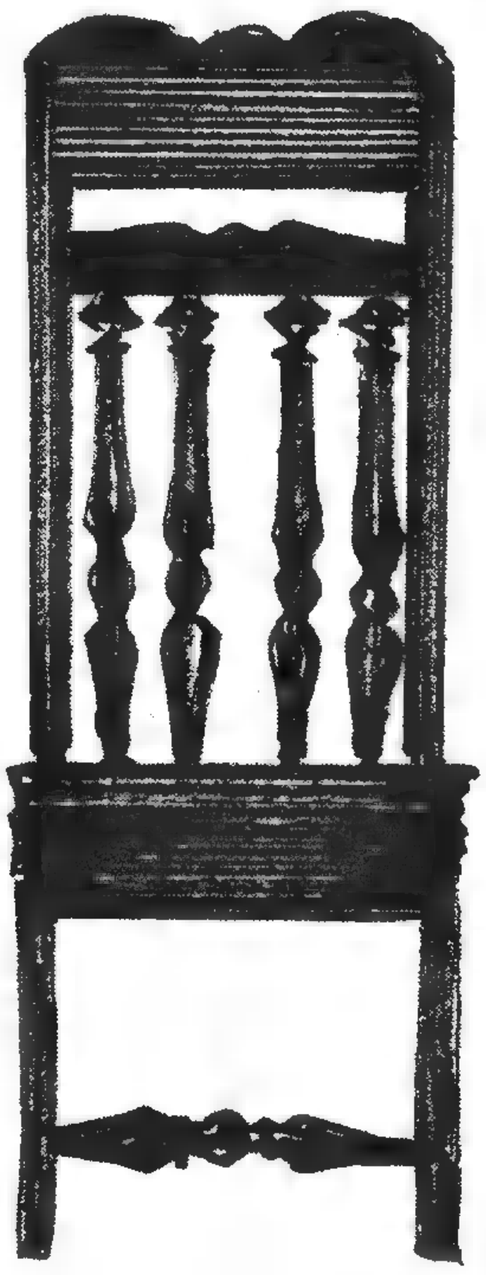
I NEVER REAL-IZED.

NOW HOLD STILL.

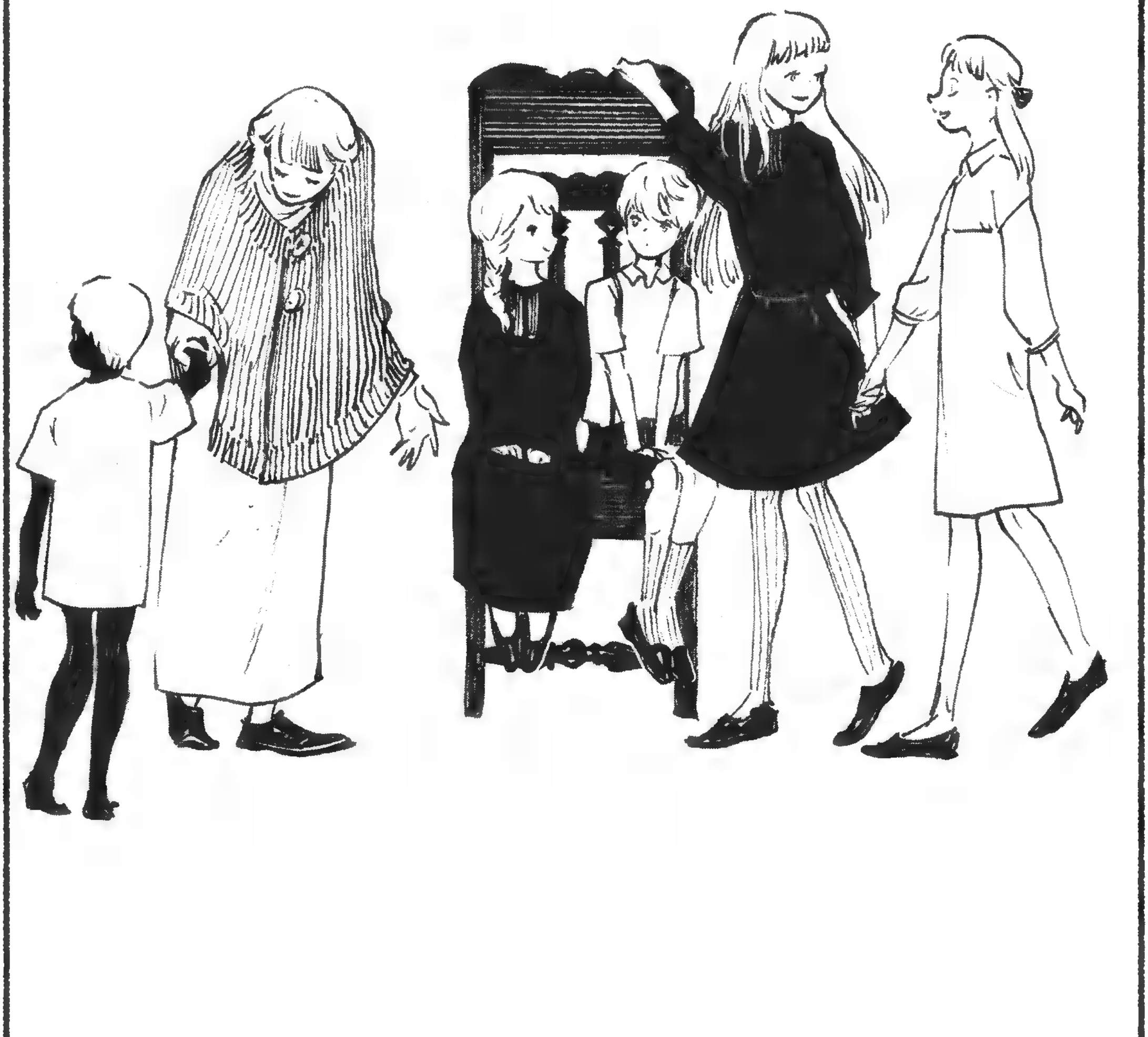
OH, ALL RIGHT. IF YOU INSIST.


YOU'RE SO WARM.

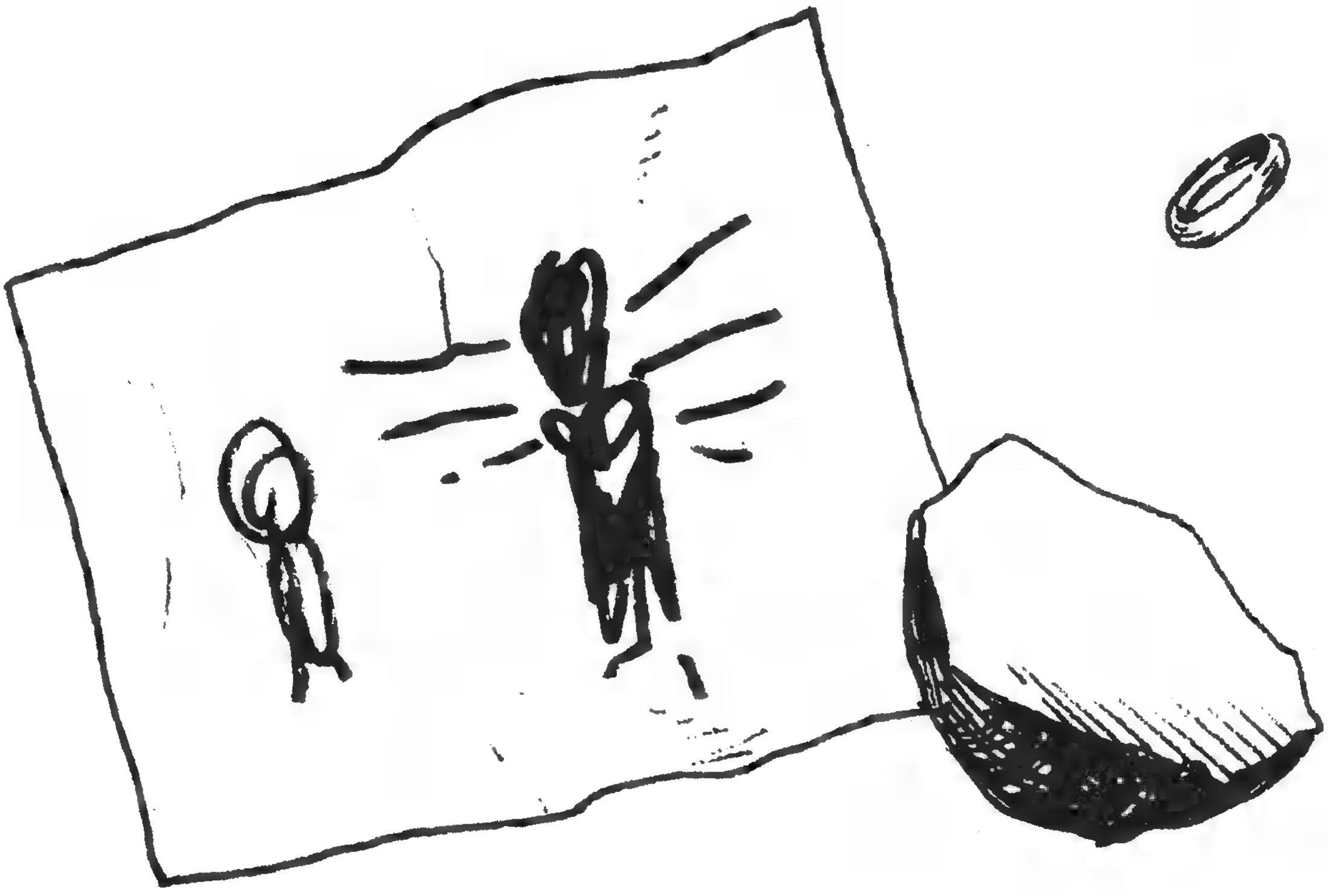
Thank you for reading!



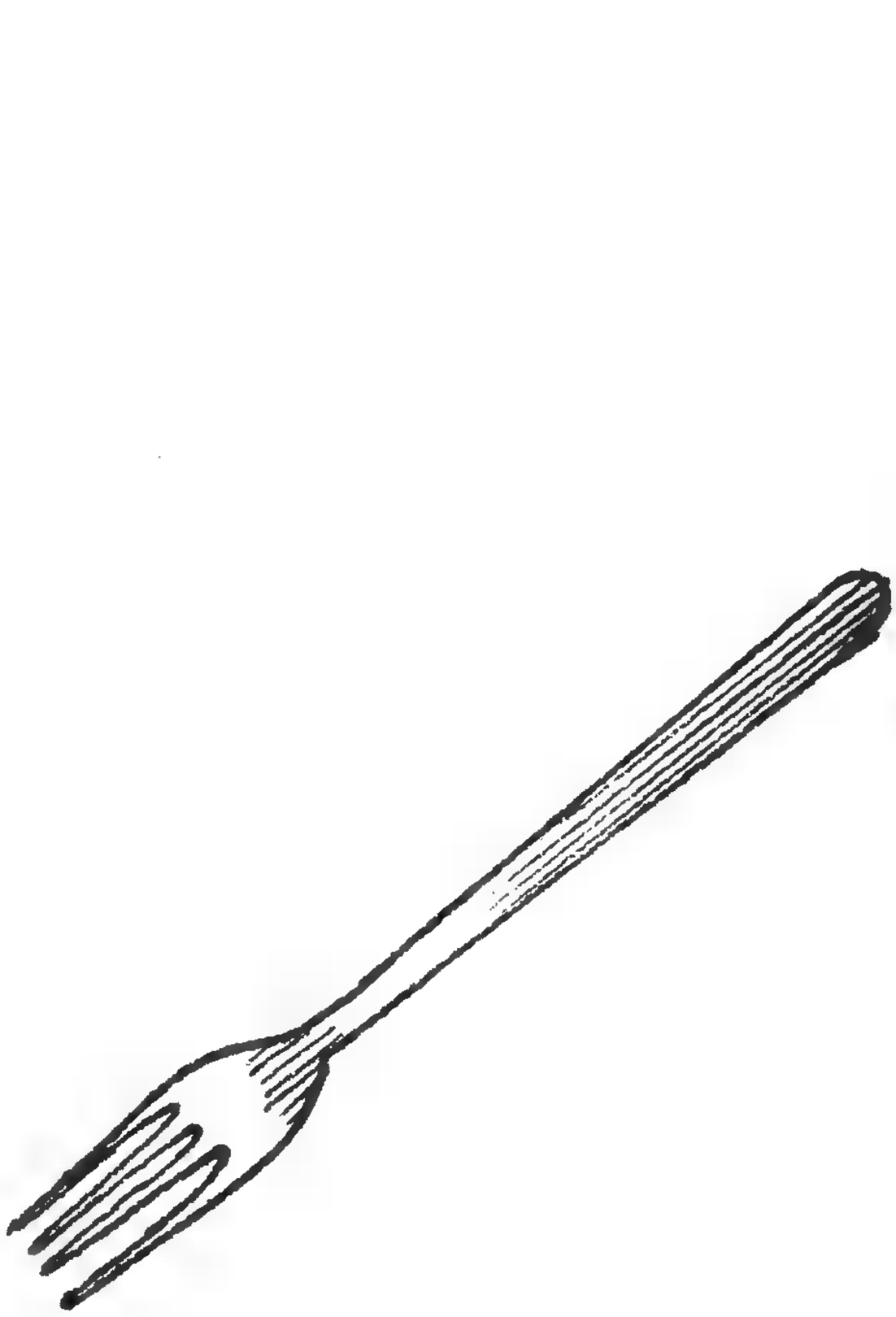
NAGABE

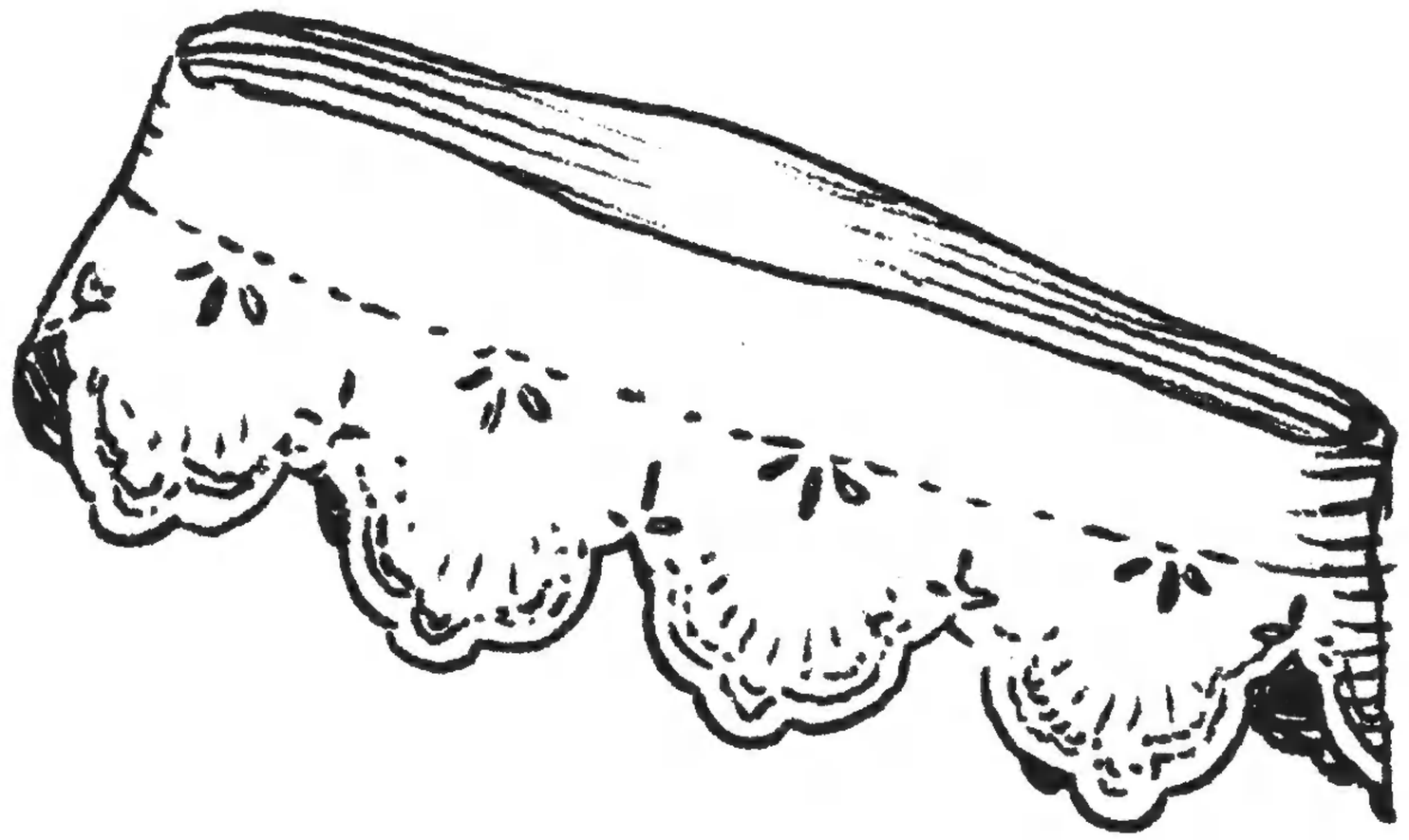




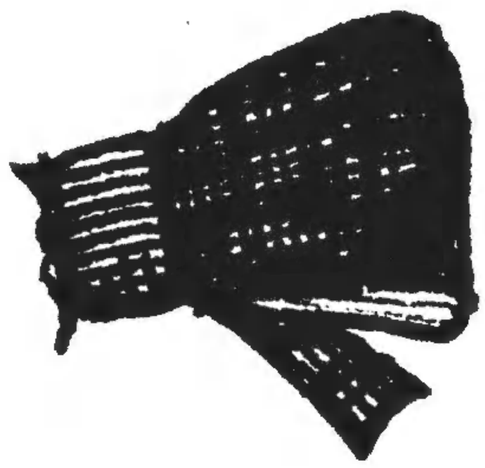


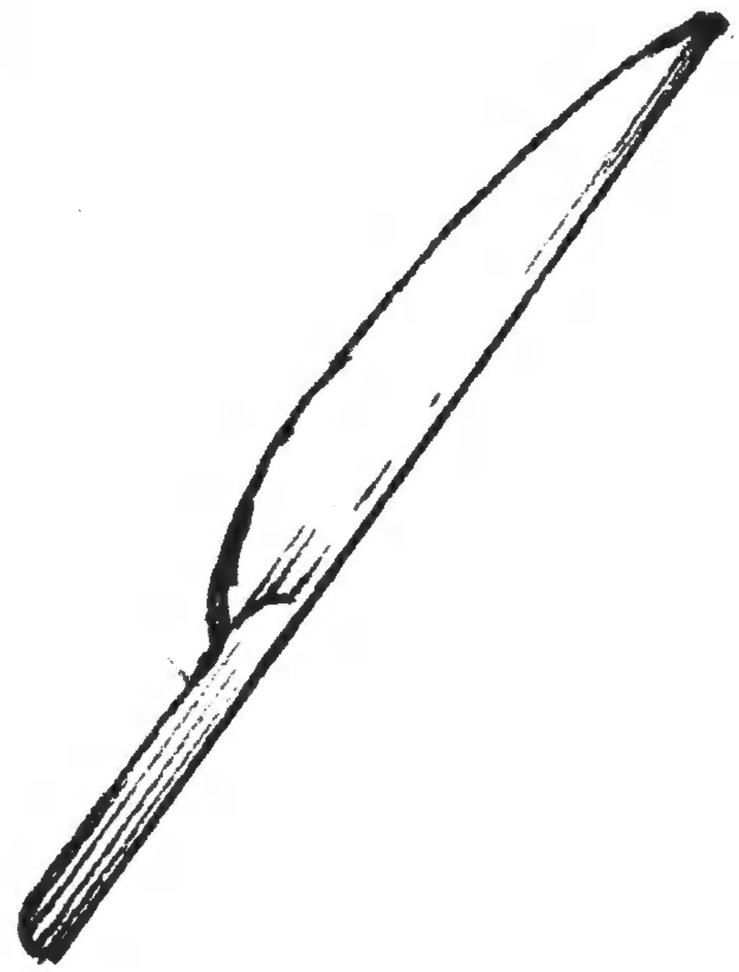


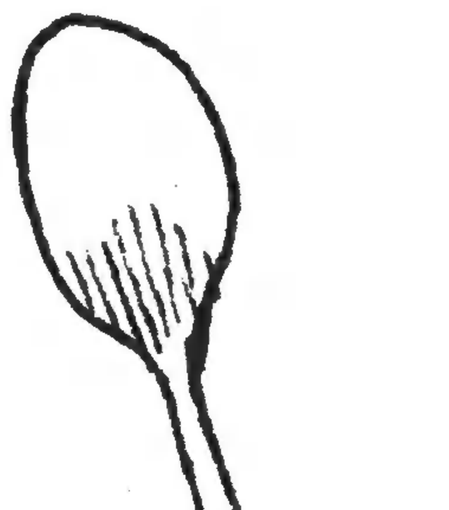


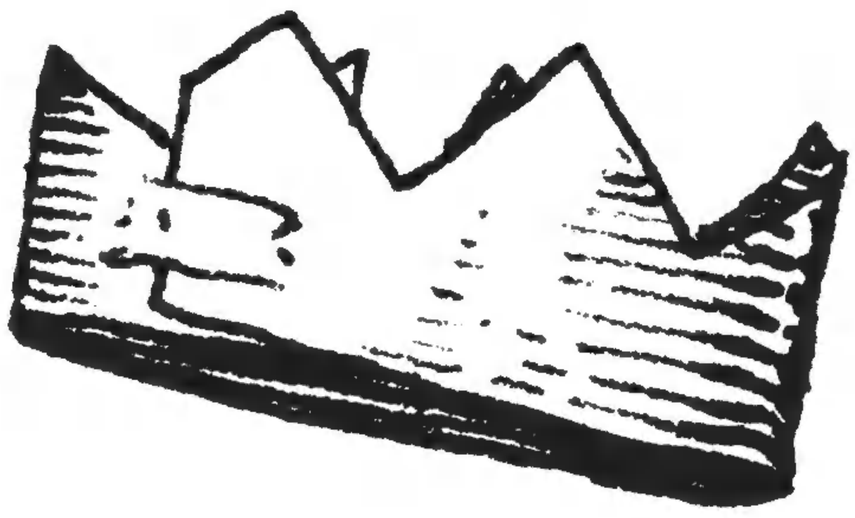




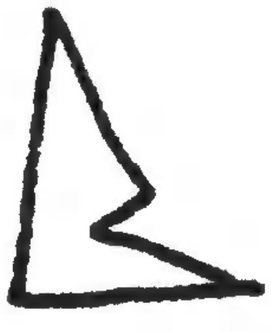
















SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Love on the Other Side

A Nagabe Short Story Collection

story and art by NAGABE

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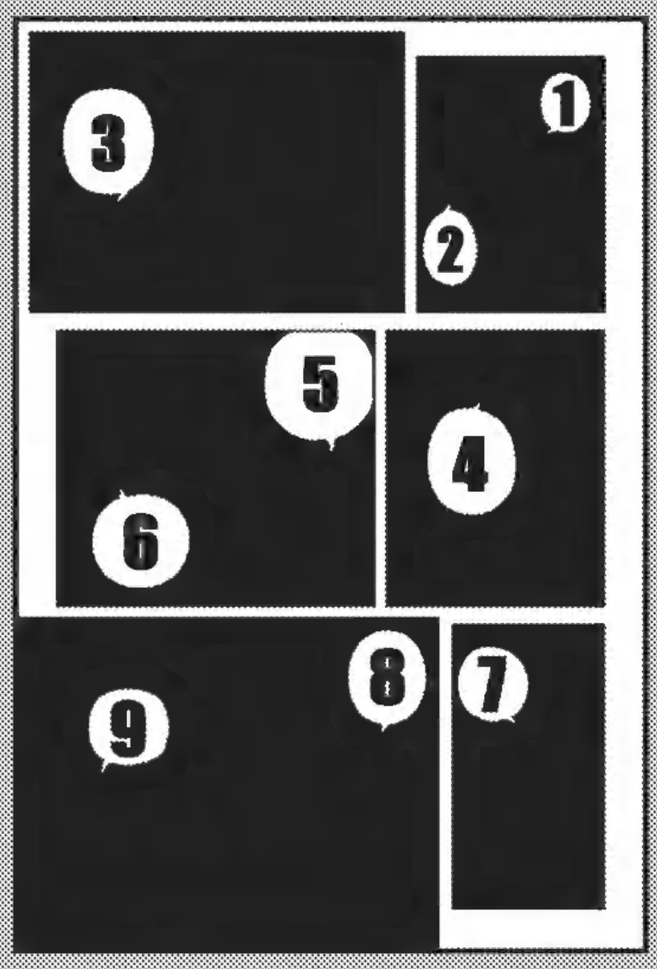
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



A manga anthology of poignant short stories from Nagabe, the bestselling creator of *The Girl From the Other Side.*

Love comes in many forms. A magnificent bird comforts a struggling girl; a vampire waltzes with a young lady at night; a blind girl lives with a monster of whom there is more than meets the eye. This six-story manga collection by masterful manga creator Nagabe explores fascinating relationships that refuse to be confined.

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